GMA at UN: Release Aung San Suu Kyi now

By Christine O. Avendaño

UNITED NATIONS-JOINING THE world in its expression of outrage at the killings of protesters in Burma (Myanmar), President Macapagal-Arroyo last night urged that military-ruled country to restore democracy and immediately free Nobel Peace laureate Aung San Suu Kyi.

Ms Arroyo issued the call in a speech at the United Nations General Assembly after Burma's partners in the Association of METRO / A19

UP charges 12 Sigma Rhoans before student tribunal

Jodie Foster avoids gossip

by being boring

SAT. SPECIAL/F1

RP external debt fell to \$53B in June due to weak \$

BUSINESS/ B1

NEWS / A5

Hong Kong pop star defends firing 21 Pinay DHs in 3 years

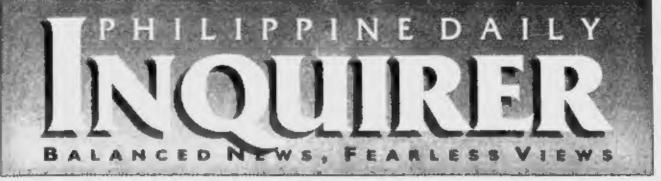
'Stand down troops, age of impunity over'

By Gordon Brown

Prime Minister, Great Britain

JUST BEFORE HE DIED, I HAD THE PRIVIlege to meet Michael Aris, the husband of Aung San Suu

Kyl. With the support of the international community, he was desperately trying to see his wife for



Saturday, September 29, 2007

10 sections / Vol. 22 / No. 293 P18



ASEAN-WIDE PROTEST: Rallies across Asean are being held to denounce the Burmese Junta's bloody crackdown on prodemocracy protesters like this in Kuala Lumpur on Friday. APP

BURMESE BRAVES

Crowds taunt troops; no monks in sight

RANGOON—CROWDS TAUNTED soldiers and police who barricaded the central part of this capital yesterday to prevent more mass protests against 45 years of military rule in Burma (also known as Myanmar) and deepening economic hardship.

In a potentially deadly game of cat and mouse, groups of several hundred men and women yelled in English, "F___ you, army. We only want democracy," provoking charges by small bands of soldiers.

The protesters disappeared into

a warren of narrow side streets and reemerged elsewhere to resume their barrage of abuse in a city of people terrified of a repeat of 1988, when the army killed an estimated 3,000 people in crushing an uprising.

Several shots were fired, but there was no immediate word of more casualties a day after troops swept protesters out of the city center, giving them 10 minutes to leave or risk being shot, then pursued knots of demonstrators through the city.

There was no sign of the monks who turned what started as small protests against shock fuel price rises last month into a mass uprising by lending their huge moral weight to demonstrations against the junta.

Efforts to squelch the protests appeared to be working Friday, with numbers dropping to just over 2,000.

Soldiers pounded dissenters yesterday by swiftly breaking up street gatherings of diehard activists, oc-

Abalos knows too much

EXECUTIVE FIAT

Raise case to SC, Palace tells Senate

By Michael Lim Ubac and Leila B. Salaverria

STANDING PAT ON ITS ASSERtion that Romulo Neri did right in invoking executive privilege at the Senate's inquiry into the National Broadband Network project, Malacafiang yesterday called on the chamber to take the matter to the Supreme

"The Supreme Court, being the ultimate arbiter of cases like this, [can settle the issue]. 1 think that's the best thing," Presidential Management Staff chief Cerge Remonde said at a press conference.

Remonde stressed that Neri's invoking of executive privilege on Wednesday to avoid having to answer senators' questions President Macapagal-Ar-

royo's involvement in the NBN deal hewed to the Palace's own interpretation of the Supreme Court ruling on Ms Arroyo's Executive Order No. 464.

He was referring to the high court's ruling in February 2006 on the constitutionality of EO 464, which bars the appearance of executive officials at congressional inquiries without the President's consent.

"And if that [decision] of the Supreme Court is being interpreted differently by the executive and the Senate at this time, the best way to resolve that is to once again bring [the issue] to the Supreme Court," he said.

Remonde was echoing the position of Sergio Apostol, the President's legal counsel, that Neri, a former socioeconomic

PETTING AT THE ZOO Albino Burmese python named Cheese Cake and Marimar, an orangutan in crocks get the full attention of Malabon Zoo owner Manny

Teves admits Neri told him about Abalos' bribe offer

ROMULO NERI INFORMED NOT eral of the National Economic only President Macapagal-Arroyo but also Finance Secretary Margarito Teves about Commission on Elections Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr's purported offer of P200

Teves himself disclosed this to reporters in New York, saying that Neri, then the director gen-

and Development Authority, had told him about Abalos' alleged bribe attempt to push the approval of the National Broadband Network project in favor of China's ZTE Corp.

But at that time, "I did not put too much attachment to it," TEVES ADMITS/ A8

NBN deal straining ties with GMA, admits Gina DV

By Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes in Northern Luzon and Christian V. Esguerra in Manila

DAGUPAN CITY-GINA DE Venecia, the wife of Speaker Jose de Venecia, admitted yes- royo really got hurt by claims hurt when they attack my hus-

President Macapagal-Arroyo whom she described as "like a sister to me."

Gina said she knew Ms Ar-

terday that the exposé of her made by Jose Joey" de Venecia stepson about the ZTE deal had Ill that the President's husband, affected her friendship with Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo, had told him to "back off" from the National Broadband Network (NBN) project.

"But I am also emotionally

By Christine O. Avendaño

band and my son," she said.

Tangco. Behind them in a playful mood are tigers Gloria and Erap. Oct. 4 is St. Francis feast.

You could call it a crack [in the relationship], I don't know. What happened was really difficult for our [respective] families but the issue here is not friendship or relationship but what is [good] for the Filipino

people," she said.

Gina attended the opening of the First CSI Sari Sari Store and Livelihood Fair here.

She said she was hurting for Joey, whom she has to look after, because "he is telling the truth."

Poll chief holds ace: He knows where bodies are buried

By Christian V. Esguerra Norman Bordadora

WHO'S AFRAID Benjamin Abalos?

Although his back is against the wall, the chair of the Commission on Elections is hanging tough despite an impeachment case against him because he has the "advantage" of knowing where the bodies are buried, a lawmaker claimed yesterday.

"Many people, not only those in Congress but also those in Malacañang, are afraid of Abalos and this could work to his advantage," Bayan Muna Rep. Teodoro Casiño told the INQUIR-ER yesterday. "He knows so many things about the administration to be dropped like a hot potato."

"He knows too many secrets," Casiño said.

He said that Abalos-under whose watch the "Helio Garci" wiretapping controversy erupted-could spill the beans on the administration in case the impeachment case was supported by the majority coalition in the House of Representatives.

Casiño, one of three lawmakers who have endorsed the impeachment complaint, said Abaios' knowledge of key "secrets" of the Arroyo administra-

ABALOS/ A17

Presidential guards, staff 'shoot' Brad Pitt, go gaga

By Christine O. Avendaño

NEW YORK (VIA PLDT)-THE PRESIDENtial guards bumped into Hollywood actor Brad Pitt at the Waldorf-Astoria and shot him-with their digital cameras.

The presidential guards of President Macapagal-Arroyo, along with Palace staffers, found themselves face-to-face with PRESIDENTIAL/A8



GMA basks in praise from US business

NEW YORK (VIA PLDT)-AMERICAN BUSInessmen marvelled at the strength exhibited by the Philippine economy and told President Macapagal-Arroyo of their excitement over

business opportunities in the country. For the second straight day yesterday, the President, who is here to attend the 62nd session of the United Nations General Assembly, cheon attended by leaders of the Abbott

basked in the praise from US business and Laboratories, American Investment Group political leaders for the "excellent job" that she was doing of running the economy.

At lunch with 20 leaders of top US companies, Ms Arroyo was praised for her leadership in turning the economy around.

"The statistics tell the story," said Matthew Daley, president of the US-Asean Business Council which organized the lun-

(AIG), Citi, the Coca-Cola Co., Ford Motor Co., Pfizer and Time Warner, among others.

Daley said the Philippines was now experiencing the "highest average economic growth, greatest job creation and lowest in-

"And this of course happened under your leadership and I think one of the greatest

GMA BASKS/ A8

Concessed of Section (Str.

FORECAST: The eastern sections of Central and Northern Luzon and

the provinces of Camprines and Calandannes will have rains and gusty winds and the coastal waters will be moderate to rough. The

rest of the country will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered

Cebu

Zembesogs

Holla/Bucolod Mostly Cloudy

Cagayan de Dro Hamay Can

Mostly Cloudy

Mostly Cloudy

SOURCE PAGASA

WEATHER FORECAST

Mostly Cloudy

Mostly Cloudy Mostly Cloudy

Gusty Winds **Gusty Winds**

COMPLETO BY: SCHATZE GLICONIA, POTRESENTO POP/26/57

Metire Mantia Mostly Cloudy

Bagula Mostly Cloudy

Tuguegarao Gusty Winds

MAG-INGAT

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2007

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(In exact order) Mid-Day SUERTRES Evening

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Floods, landslides feared

'Hanna' intensifies into a storm, hits land today

By TJ Burgonio

TROPICAL DEPRESSION "HANNA" HAS INTENSIfied into a storm and is expected to hit land today, according to the Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration.

public to brace for heavy rains in the next two days and take precautions against floods and landslides, particularly in Lu-

Pagasa raised storm signal no. 2 over Isabela, Quirino, Aurora, Northern Quezon including Polilio Island, Camarines Norte, Camarines Sur and Catanduanes.

Signal No. 1 was raised over

Pagasa yesterday advised the Cagayan, Kalinga, Mt. Province, Ifugao, Benguet, Nueva Vizcaya, Nueva Ecija, Bulacan, Rizal, Laguna, Cavite, Batangas, the rest of Quezon, Marinduque, Burias Island, Albay, Sorsogon and Metro Manila.

As of 2 p.m. yesterday, "Hanna" was estimated based on satellite and surface data at 250 kilometers northeast of Virac, Catanduanes with maximum sustained winds of 65 kilome-

and gustiness of 80 kph.

It is forecast to move west northwest at 20 kph over the Philippine Sea from Catanduanes to northern Luzon today, according to Pagasa.

to make a landfall this year, according to Pagasa.

"This disturbance is bringing heavy rains that can cause flashfloods and landslides." deputy Pagasa director Prisco Nilo said in a briefing.

"Hanna" is expected to swirl overnight from east northeast of Catanduanes to northern Luzon, and hit land between Isabela and Quirino this afternoon.

The rains will not be limited

ters per hour near the center to areas where storm signal No. west of Baguio City Monday 1 is raised. Rains will also be exmorning. perienced in Bicol. Visavas and Mindanao," Pagasa weather branch chief Nathaniel Cruz

said in the briefing. He said the possibility of The eighth cyclone is the first floods and landslides was "high" in Luzon.

> Metro Manila has been forecast to experience "moderate to heavy rains between this morning and tomorrow afternoon, according to Nilo.

"We are advising fishermen not to set sail because it's too dangerous," he said. "Hanna" is expected to be 90 km northwest of Baguio City or 110 km north northwest of Dagupan City tomorrow morning, and 550 km

But even before "Hanna" could hit land, monsoon rains have spawned flashfloods in 15 barangays in Balingasag, a town in Misamis Oriental, according to National Disaster Coordinating Council executive officer Glen Rabonza.

"When it hits land, there will be areas or parts of the country where there will be flooding and landslides," he said in the briefing.

Pagasa said eastern Luzon will experience stormy weather normal rainfall next month. and its coastal waters will be rough to very rough. The rest of Luzon will have rains with occasional gusty winds and the coastal waters over these areas

will be moderate to rough. The rest of the country will be cloudy with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms.

Moderate to strong winds blowing from the southwest will prevail over Visayas and Mindanao with moderate to rough seas:

Pagasa forecast at least two cyclones in October, two in November and one in December. With La Niña kicking in the last quarter, most parts of Luzon and Visayas will experience above

La Niña developed from the cooling of the sea surface temperature in the central and eastem Pacific Ocean. It's associated with increased rainfall.

WHAT'S INSIDE

DOTC rebuts profs on NBN

ESPERON.

detained officers trade charges



ERAP CAN visit mom again

SAVE MARILOU. kin, pals urge

By Riza T. Okhondra

THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTAtion and Communication (DOTC) yesterday rejected suggestions of two University of the Philippines academics that the controversial national broadband network (NBN) project be scrapped in favor of other schemes.

"The issues of whether the government pursues a broadband project and in what form it will take are in fact policy or judgment calls and not cut-anddried formulas," the DOTC said.

The agency issued the statement after economics professors Raul Pabella make profits at the same time. and Emmanuel de Dios testified before the Senate that the controversial NBN project did not make economic sense.

Fabella stressed that the study they had conducted was not against the idea of government providing "last mile connectivity" to agencies and schools, which he said would cost about P5 billion. He said they are against building a [that] government's telecommunica-

new backbone because the emergence tions expenses may go up instead of of a new backbone would result in underutilization of existing private backbones, leading to price increases.

De Dios suggested that the government instead try a build-operate-transfer (BOT) alternative or use bulk buying to negotiate for lower rates with local telecommunications companies.

In its written rebuttal, DOTC said the BOT scheme would not necessarily lead to lower expenses because the BOT contractor would need to borrow at higher rates of interest-much higher than the Chinese concessional loan and

The private proponent may ais avoid servicing areas that are unprofitable, a primary reason for coming up with the NBN.

"More importantly, like our other experiences with BOT projects, we may in all likelihood end up subsidizing the BOT proponent. So it's very possible

EVEN LANDLUBBERS WILL

down if we do BOT," DOTC said.

As to bulk buying, the DOTC claimed that telcos cannot give government preferential rates as this will mean discriminating against private consumers. In other words, bulk buying will result in consumers subsidizing government telecommunication expenses as the telecom carriers will want to recoup the discount given to government.

The NBN, on the other hand, will, aside from radically reducing the telecommunication expenses of government, may in all likelihood raise revenues for the government with no additional cost to the individual subscribers. The reason for this is simple—carriers interconnecting with the government's VOIP network will have to share part of their revenues for calls originating from their networks and terminating at the government's VOIP network. This is the mandate of the NTC memorandum circular on VOIP" the DOTC said.

Miriam blows hot and cold in budget hearings

By Dona Pazzibugan

SEN. MIRIAM DEFENSOR-SANTIAGO blew hot and cold when she presided over back-to-back budget hearings yesterday.

Discarding her trademark acerbic demeanor, Santiago allowed Energy Secretary Angelo Reyes, whom she had accused of incompetence, to breeze through his department's budget hearing.

Santiago, chair of the Senate energy committee, only asked Reyes to explain the relatively huge allocation given to the newlyformed National Biofuels Board as the panel considered the Department of Energy's budget proposal of P997.1 million for next year.

She did not refute any statement made by Reyes, who turned to another DOE official for coaching before he answered.

After only about 30 minutes, the senator declared, "That's all!" She then excused Reves and the DOE officials from the rest of the budget hearing held inside the Senate's Sen, Claro M. Recto Room.

Later, Reyes told reporters he was happy that the hearing went smoothly. "It was fine, enlightening," said the retired military general who had headed three other departments.

But Santiago told reporters she was not satisfied with Reyes' answers and only decided not to press her points in the meantime.

Santiago had vehemently opposed Reyes' latest appointment.

The DOE budget hearing followed that of the Department of Labor and Employment, where-it seemed inevitably-Santiago blew her top.

Surprised by the outburst

Annoyed by the noise from cell phones, crowd murmurs and the door squeaking due to the comings and goings of spectators, Santiago vented her ire at almost everybody in the room.

"I don't like you walking around. You are like senators," Santiago shouted.

"Even the secretariat are abusive sometimes. Even the pages, you act like you're senarors," she continued.

"You are always demanding government to give better service. Now we're doing serious work, you're making fun of it."

Surprised by the outburst everyone sat unmoving in their seats, including Labor Secretary Arturo Brion, several top officials and the heads of line agencies.

Santiago ordered that all cell phones be switched to the silent mode. The security staff meanwhile locked the main door to still the offending squeaks.

Santiago has recently come under fire for her remarks at the Sept. 26 Senate inquiry into the ZTE Corp.'s \$329-million national broadband network project, where she linked the Chinese civilization to corruption.

The senator wrote to Chinese Ambassador Song Tao Sept. 27 to apologize for her remarks, pointing out her husband was part Chinese.

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Sandiganbayan grants Erap permit to visit ailing mother in hospital

By Jocelyn R. Uy

CONVICTED FORMER President Joseph Estrada the San Juan Medical Cen- Aug. 10. ter today.

The Sandiganbayan Special Division vesterday granted anew the ousted

pass so he could spend more imprisonment. time with the 102-year-old Mary Ejercito, whose condition has been deteriorating will visit his ailing mother at since her confinement on

Today's visit will be Estrada's first after the antigraft court convicted him of plunder two weeks ago and senleader a 10-hour special tenced him to up to 40 years started administering antibi-

Early this week, Estrada filed a motion informing the court that his mother's condition had worsened due to an infection she recently acquired.

The Estrada family doctor, Lorenzo Hocson, wrote to the convicted leader that he had

otics to Ejercito for the infection.

The last time Estrada saw his mother in the hospital was three days before the court promulgated its decision on his six-year-old plun-

der case. The former president was allowed a 10-hour visit to the hospital to seek her blessing before confronting his fate.

In granting the former president hospital only until 5 p.m. today.

another special pass, the court informed the police and the Sandiganbayan Sheriff's Office that Estrada is allowed to stay in the

No fanfare in Marcos' 18th death anniversary

By Cristina Arzadon Inquirer Northern Luzon

BATAC CITY-ILOCANOS QUIETLY MARKED yesterday the 18th death anniversary of their favorite son, Ferdinand Marcos, who died in exile in Hawaii on Sept. 28, 1989.

Unlike the strongman's 90th birthday on Sept. 11 when Ilocanos joined former first lady Imelda Marcos in marking Marcos Day as a special event, local officials made no special preparations to mark his death anniversary.

A congressional staff member here of Ilocos Norte Rep. Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. said the Marcos family merely offered Mass at the Batac Cathedral in honor of the late strongman. No family member, however, was around for the occasion.

Marcos' remains have been kept inside an air-conditioned mausoleum at the Marcos ancestral house here since he was flown from Hawaii in 1993.

Libingan burial

His widow has been asking the government to allow her husband's body to be buried at the Libingan ng mga Bayani.

Mrs. Marcos, however, has started developing a mountainous lot in the village of San Pedro here as a proposed burial ground should efforts to have her husband interred at the Libingan fail.

The Marcos widow named the burial ground as the Maharlika eco-park presumably in reference to the so-called "Ang Maharlika" guerrilla force in Northern Luzon that her husband led during World War II.

The clearing of the burial site has been observed as an indication that Mrs. Marcos is no

longer keen on pursuing a hero's burial for her husband.

The former First Lady did not bring along her legions of Marcos loyalists on her last visit to Bocos Norte when she led provincial officials and residents in marking the strongman's birthday on Sept. 11.

The widow merely offered Mass at the Batac church and at the air-conditioned mausoleum where her husband's frozen remains

She also visited the Mahartika eco-park in San Pedro. Accompanied by her husband's nephew, Ilocos Norte Gov. Michael Keon, Mrs. Marcos led a simple ceremony in the presence of local officials to inaugurate the site.

Burial in Paradise

The eco-park is being jointly developed by another Marcos nephew, Board Member Mariano Marcos II, and investors from the Fort Ilocandia Resort and Casino which is run by Chinese businessman Jack Lam.

"Perhaps, (Godly spirit) doesn't want the late president to have a burial ground at the Libingan but in the paradise (Maharlika Park) that the Lord has created," Mrs. Marcos said.

She said, however, she would continue working on having her husband accorded a hero's burial.

"If there's one person who had been persecuted in life and in death (it was Marcos). For two decades, he has been denied an honorable burial," she said.

"This vilification continues.... When he topped the bar, they said he cheated, when he was awarded medals of valor, they said they were fake. And when he was a strong leader, they said he was a dictator"



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Tourists staying longer in RP-BI

By Margaux C. Ortiz

MORE FOREIGN TOURISTS are opting to stay longer in the "country, making the Philippines "one of the most favored tourist destinations in the Asia-Pacific."

Bureau of Immigration chief Marcelino Libanan made this , observation yesterday, saying 7: that foreign visitors have paid emore than P370 million to the government just to extend their astay in the country.

Libanan said that Bl's collections from visa extension fees from January to August 2007 ramounted to P370.17 million, stup by P57.9 million or 18 percent from the P312.2 million generated during the same period last year

"The income was sourced from 151,066 applications for extension of stay of tourists which the bureau approved during the eight-month period," the BI chief said in a statement, citing statistics from the immigration visa extension office.

Libanan added that approved extensions of stay increased by 16 percent from the 129,666 applications for extension that the bureau granted from Jan-

uary to August 2006.

Visa extension fees accounted for a large chuck of the BI's revenue collection over the past few years as the number of tourists who visited the country has steadily grown," Libanan said.

The immigration chief said the figures indicated that more and more foreign tourists are visiting and prolonging their stay in the Philippines.

The numbers speak for themselves. Our country is fast emerging as one of the most favored tourist destinations in the Asia-Pacific," Libanan said.

He added, "The fact that foreign tourists are entering our country in droves is an indication that foreign investors' confidence in our country has tremendously improved as President Macapagal-Arroyo had stated in her last State of the Nation Address."

Libanan noted that foreign tourists visited the country not only for pleasure but also to consider investment and business opportunities.

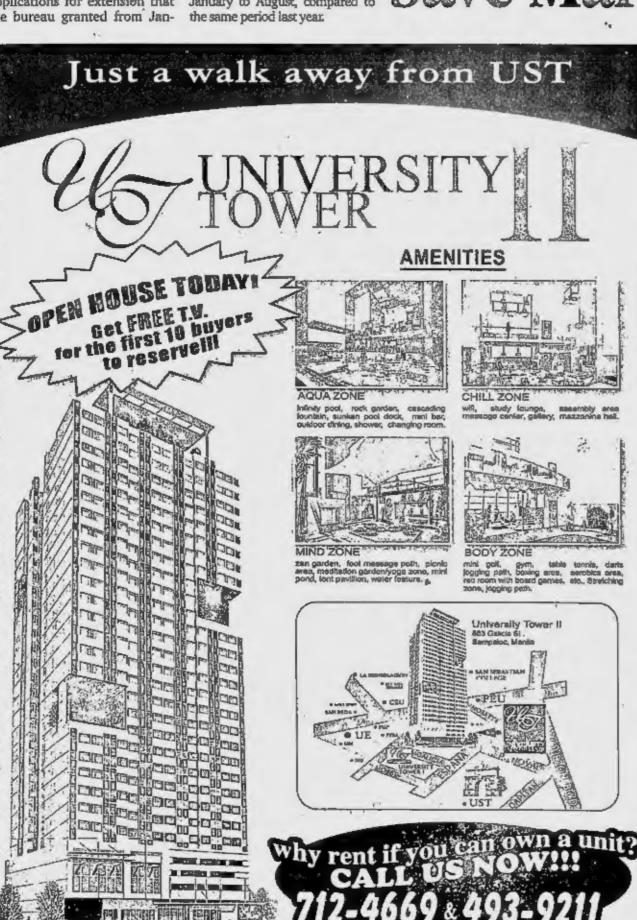
He also reported that more foreigners arrived in the country from January to August, compared to the same period last year.



SUPPORTERS of Marilou Ranario light candles to save her from execution.

'NEW FLOR CONTEMPLACION'

Save Marilou, kin, pals urge



Model Units available for viewing at the 3" Floor, University Tower!

829/831 Moret St., Sampaloc, Manila.

By Jeannette I. Andrade

SHE WANTED TO LIFT HER FAMILY FROM poverty so she decided to work in Kuwait as a domestic helper although she was qualified to be a teacher in the Philippines.

But the dreams of Marilou Ranarlo, 35, may no longer find fulfillment after she ended up on death row in Kuwait for allegedly stabbing her employer to death in 2005.

Ranario's relatives, her neighbors in Barangay Holy Spirit, Quezon City and members of Migrante International are now racing against time to try to save her from being executed.

"Our campaign to save her life is about raising public awareness about the greatest heights of exploitation and injustice Marilou and other OFWs on death row suffer," Migrante International secretary general Maita

Santiago told a press conference yesterday. Ranario has been scheduled for execution in January or February next year.

White and blue ribbons

But it was reportedly only during the last week of December 2005 that the Ranario family learned of Marilou's fate and it was 10 months later that they were informed by the Department of Foreign Affairs that she had been sentenced to death.

She was found guilty of stabbing to death on Jan. 11, 2005, her employer Najat Mahmoud Faraj Mubarak in Salwa.

She claimed to have been prompted to kill her employer out of her apprehension that Mubarak had been planning to hurt her. The misconception was a result allegedly of months of unfair labor practices, maltreatment and abuse.

Yesterday, Ranario's friends and relatives tied white and blue ribbons around electric posts along Commonwealth Avenue and streets leading to Barangay Holy Spirit to call for prayers and support for the pending appeal of Ranario's case before the Supreme Court of Kuwait.

"Let us not waste time. Let us not wait after Marilou is gone. We must act now and save Marilou," Kenneth Causon of the Barangay Holy Spirit-based KC Movement appealed to the public.

They likewise held a candlelight vigil in Barangay Holy Spirit to create public awareness that another OFW has been scheduled for execution.

Appeal for prayers

Allan Ranario, Marilou's younger brother, personally asked Filipinos to join their family and their friends in prayer for her safety. He told the Philippine Daily Inquirer that it was his sister's only request.

Allan also appealed to the government in behalf of Marilou's children, saying "They want their mother back."

Marilou is the fourth child in a brood of 10. But only two of them finished college. She finished her education degree at the Northeastern Mindanao Colleges (Nemco).

But driven by the need to alleviate her tamily from poverty and the facil of opportunities in the country, she immediately went abroad after finishing her course, Allan pointed out.

Before she left for Kuwait on Dec. 10, 2003, Marilou had told members of her family to take very good care of her children. Marilou has three children: Raffy, John and Roselle, by her common law husband Lolito Dalubatan.

"Marilou is today's Flor Contemplation. She is a young mother and former teacher who wanted little more that a better life-for herself and her family. The struggle to save their lives will involve a broad range of actions at the local, national and international level. We also seek to expose and make accountable the Arroyo administration over its criminal neglect of their plight," Santiago stressed.

DFA pledges help for doomed Pinays

By Tarra Quismundo

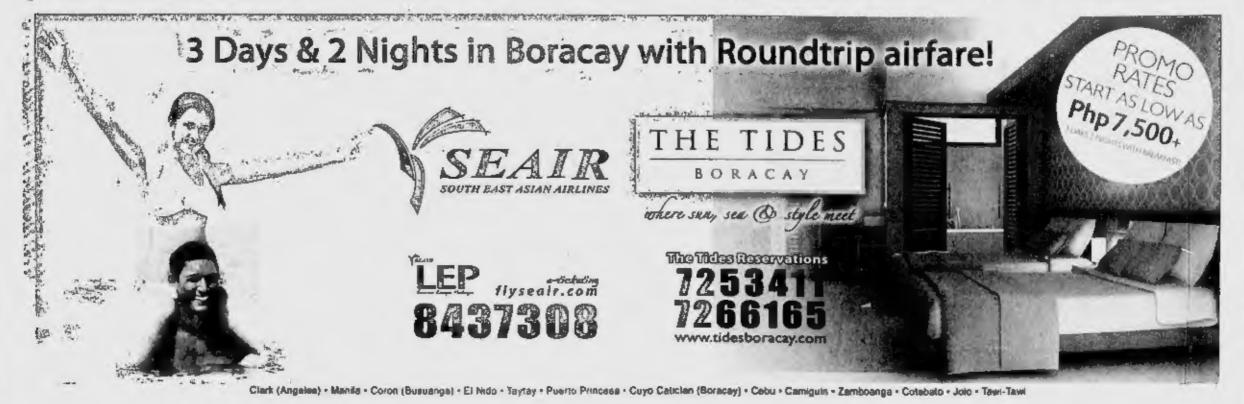
THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (DFA) yesterday assured its continuous legal assistance to Filipino domestic helpers facing death penalty in Kuwait.

Foreign Undersecretary for Migrant Workers Affairs Esteban Conejos Jr. said yesterday that "the best lawyers" in Kuwait have been helping out in appealing the cases of May Vecina and Marilou Ranario, migrant workers convicted of crimes punishable by death in the oil-rich state.

The Kuwait appeals court on Wednesday upheld the death sentence meted on Vecina for killing her employer's son, an 11-yearold, and stabbing the boy's 17-year-old sister after an argument with her bosses.

The case is up for automatic appeal to Kuwait's High Court.

Ranario, who had admitted to killing her employer in January 2005 after her boss allegedly berated Filipinos, meanwhile stands a chance for a lesser sentence through an appeals process in the Kuwaiti Supreme Court, said Conejos.



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DEVELOPMENT



CHEUNG

Another Pinoy seized in Nigeria

By Tarra Quismundo

and the sail in a state of the Ref. 25° at the notice of the act.

THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFfairs (DFA) yesterday confirmed that a Filipino electrician working for an Italian oil company has been kidnapped in Nigeria, the 10th abduction incident involving Philippine citizens in the oil-rich African country since 2006.

Poreign Affairs Undersecretary for Migrant Workers Affairs Esteban Conejos Jr. told reporters yesterday that the Filipino worker was one of two foreigners seized by unidentified gunmen during an attack on an Italian-run company in Port Harcourt on Thursday evening.

"We've received a report from our embassy in Abuja that one OFW (overseas Filipino worker) was abducted in Port Harcourt, Nigeria... So at this time, the report is very sketchy and we're trying to get details about this

incident... We're closely monitoring this particular event," Conejos said.

"The kidnappers reportedly barged into the workplace and snatched the workers there," Conejos said.

Conejos, however, declined to identify the kidnapped Filipino worker, saying the DFA would only release his name once the family has been informed.

He, however, assured that the abducted Filipino worker is safe." Our OFW is alive, he's just in custody now," Conejos said.

Conejos said Philippine authorities would work for the Filipino's release through Nigerian authorities, who "are responsible for the safety of everybody in their jurisdiction."

He said he would leave it to the Nigerian government to negotiate with the kidnappers and reiterated Manila's policy of refusing to pay ransom.

The report from Conejos came a day after authorities in Nigeria said gunmen killed a Colombian oil worker and kidnapped at least one other foreigner in an attack on a riverside compound.

Reports indicated that 10 gunmen in military attire attacked the Port Harcourt construction yard of oil services company Saipem, a firm under the control of Italian oil giant Eni.

A Colombian oil worker was killed during the raid, while another Colombian and the Filipino worker were seized.

The attack occurred after a rebel group Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND) threatened to attack oil companies in Nigeria following the arrest of a MEND leader in Angoia. The group, however, said it was not involved in the attack, Reuters reported.

Several Filipino workers, including

seafarers, electricians, welders, and oil workers, had been kidnapped and later released back to safety in separate incidents in January, February and May.

dents in January, February and May.

There are between 4,000 to 4,500
Filipinos working in Nigeria's

bustling oil industry.

President Macapagal-Arroyo has banned additional workers from going there after 26 Filipinos were abducted in January and February. All were safely released.

In May, eight Filipinos and three South Koreans were seized from their heavily guarded compound. They were freed after a week.

Other foreign workers have also been targets of abductions in Nigeria's oil-rich states, where rebel groups have been using violence to claim a share of the country's oil wealth. With AP, Reuters reports

HK pop star defends firing of RP maids

HONG KONG—HONG KONG POP SINGER Jacky Cheung hit out at claims he has fired 21 Filipina maids in three years, saying he was an "ordinary employer," a report said

The popular crooner, who has been banned from hiring helpers from the Philippines for a year, said he could not remember how many maids he and his wife had hired and fired over the years, the South China Morning Post reported.

"I consider myself an ordinary employer. Many of my friends terminate their maids' contracts and I believe it is normal in any employment," he was quoted as saying from the eastern Chinese province of Zhejing, where he was on his concert tour.

"An employer can fire an employee if he or she fails to perform, whilst an employee can also resign if he or she is not happy about the employer.

"Is there anything wrong if we fire a maid when we find out that she is not helpful?" the 46-year-old said.

Cheung, who has been dubbed "the Terminator" by domestic workers, said some of them resigned on their first day after seeing there were too many stairs at the fourstorey luxury home he shares with his wife and two young daughters.

The Philippine consulate said Thursday it has placed Cheung and his wife, a former actress, on its banned list of sub-standard employers for one year.

Cheung said his four latest maids all re-

signed after they found out he had been blacklisted a few weeks ago, leaving him with no hired help. He now relied on his mother, relatives and friends to help, and was recruiting maids from other countries, according to the Post.

Cheung, one of Hong Kong's biggest stars, rose to fame in the mid-1980s. Like most stars here, Cheung has been packaged as an all-round entertainer, starring in a number of hit local films as well as singing Canto-pop, a hybrid of Chinese ballads and Western pop.

AFP

UST loses case against 4 nurses

By Leila B. Salaverria

THE UNIVERSITY OF SANTO TOMAS HAS lost its case to prosecute and stop four United States-bound nurses from leaving for allegedly reneging on their agreement to teach at the said institution for at least two years in exchange for granting them financial assistance in their further studies.

The Court of Appeals upheld the Manila regional trial court's dismissal of UST's complaint against the four on a technicality, saying the summons to the nurses for the complaint were not properly served.

The failure to serve the summons to Mildred Teves, Ruby Puyo, Laarni Catudan and Emma Aquino meant that the RTC did not acquire jurisdiction over the four nurses, according to the appellate court.

It also said the sheriff failed to explain why no personal service was made.

"For such failure of the sheriff, the RTC also failed to acquire jurisdiction over the persons of the defendants-appellants," it said.

"Hence ... the lower court was correct in dismissing the complaint without prejudice for failure of the court to acquire jurisdiction over the persons of the defendants-appellees."

But the appellate court disagreed with the RTC's finding that UST had no cause of action against the nurses. Nevertheless, it upheld the dismissal of the complaint because of the failure to serve the summons.

The nurses had sought financial assistance from UST to take up courses at the De La Salle University to comply with the requirement that requires faculty members of nursing schools to be holders of master's degree in nursing.



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Esperon, detained officers trade charges



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Per OTI-NOR Person S 82-463 Series of 2007

ARMED FORCES CHIEF GEN. HERmogenes Esperon Jr. and the Marine and Army Scout Ranger officers detained on coup d'etat charges in Tanay, Rizal, have traded accusations against each other amid allegations by the military chief that the detainees were involved in fresh attempts at destabi-

Esperon yesterday said the group, led by former Marine commandant Maj. Gen. Renato Miranda, Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim and Col. Ariel Querubin, were "destabilizers whose only interest is to grab pow-

"The national interest for peace and stability and progress are farthest from their aspirations," Esper-

Esperon recently implicated the detained officers in new attempts to topple the government, claiming that those behind the attempt to recruit troops for the destabilization move were "closely connected" to the group.

At a court-martial hearing in Camp Capinpin yesterday, the wives of the detained officers sported T-shirts that called on "a few good men" to rise up for the coun-



ESPERON

In a text message sent to reporters, Esperon dismissed the wives' action as a juvenile attempt at propaganda.

The detainees challenged the military to "substantiate" its claim that junior officers have been sanctioned for allegedly recruiting comrades to join another

Without proof, "a statement like this is only paranoid," the group said.

"[It is] psy-war to threaten and manipulate our soldiers to conform to their own destabilization to further their greed for power and exploit this country," the

group said. "The destabilization is of their own doing. The Armed Forces leadership has now become the permanent vehicle to suppress voices of truth," they said.

The group said it believes that majority of soldiers share their sen-

"Active or passive participation in the electoral process by the military top brass is a violation of that sworn oath which will forever haunt Esperon," they said.

Esperon has been linked to allegations of electoral fraud in 2004, after his name was mentioned in the "Hello, Garci" tapes. He has denied the allegations.

Miranda, Lim, Querubin, and 25 other officers are being tried before a military court on charges that they led a failed attempt to grab power in February 2006. Nikko Di-

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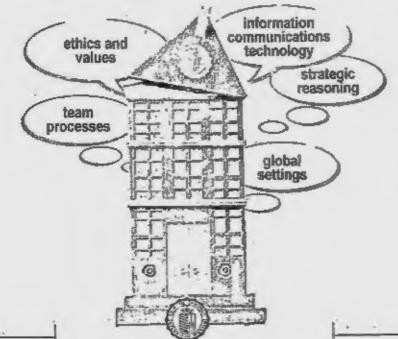
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CHOOL OF THO

Accused general 'very sick'

THE DETAINED FORMER MAIIIVII COMmandant, Maj. Gen. Renato Miranda, needs immediate medical attention but the military has denied his request for hospitalization, according to former Army Scout Ranger chief Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim, Miranda's fellow detainee.

"Gen. Miranda is very, very sick," Lim told the court-martial panel hearing their case yesterday. Miranda and Lim are

being detained at the Camp Capinpin Army camp in Tanay, Rizal, while undergoing trail for allegedly plotting to oust the government in February 2006.

Lim said the military was ignoring Miranda's "serious medical needs."



former camp commander Gen. Alfred Cayton.

his request was denied by

Cayton supposedly said that Miranda was a "security risk."

"Some people are playing God... Why are they so stingy when it comes to health problems? We are not yet convicted criminals," Lim said.

that Miranda has been ill for the past two weeks. He said at one time the general had collapsed in the bathroom.

In a statement, Lim said

Miranda is suffering from diabetes, high cholesterol and vertigo, he said.

Court-martial president Maj. Gen. Jogy Leo Fojas directed the court to coordinate with the convening authority so that Miranda can be He said Miranda asked to be hospitalized but given medical attention.

500 barred from RP for terror links

MORE THAN 500 people, including a former United States attorney general, are on a Philippine govblacklist, emment banned from entering the country because of supposed links to terrorist groups, an international human rights group said yes-

terday Human Watch said in a statement it obtained a copy of a Philippine government blacklist banning 504 people from more than 50 countries said to have al-Qaida or Taliban

links from entering the country in July

and August. But many of those on the list were human rights advocates, including the former US attorney general Ramsey Clark, Human Rights Watch said, accusing the Philippines of using the list to stop critics of the government entering the country.

"Labeling peaceful critics as al-Qaida or Taliban only serves to sap public confidence counter-terror

measures and exposes them as a cover for

suppressing dissent." said Sophie Richardson, Human Rights Watch Asia advocacy

The government's blacklisting of its critics is shocking in a country that prides itself on being a democracy that values free speech. Many people on this blacklist have done little more than criticize the government or work to protect Filipinos from the country's abusive security

forces," she said. The Bureau of Immigration and jusexpatriate Filipinos and members of USbased organizations such as Church World Service, the Methodist Church General Board of Church and Society,

blacklist includes

department

Lawyers Guild and the Center for Constitutional Rights. It also includes in-

dividuals working for the International Solidarity Labor Mission, and from Philippine unions and civil society organizations such as the left-wing political group Bayan and women's

Gabriela. Rights Human Watch said the blacklist came into effect on July 24 and "apparently" lifted on Aug. 10.

"According to a Philippine foreign ministry official, the list was put in place at the time of the Associarion of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) ministerial meeting held in Manila from July 21 to Aug. 2," Human Rights Watch said.

"Since the government did not publicly announce the blacklist, it is not clear whether this or any other blacklist is in effect at present," it said.

The rights group called on President Macapagal-Arroyo to clarify whether any blacklists were still in effect and to make a commitment to end bans on non-violent government critics. AFP



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GMA basks in praise from US business

From page A!

challenges now is to focus perception to catch up with that reality," Daley told Ms Arroyo, adding that a mission from the US-Asean Business Council would be going to Manila in Oc-

At a forum the day before, Ms Arroyo also received praise for having turned around the econgmy from former US President Bill Clinton, who described the President as a former classmate at Georgetown University and a friend of many years.

Ms Arroyo later told reporters that she was "happy that he [Clinton] thinks that way."

Martin Sullivan, president and CEO of AIG, said the attendance of top US businessmen at the luncheon for the President showed "how the US business community sees the Philippines and its importance in regional and global scales."

Sullivan also praised Ms Arroyo for the excellent job she was doing of running the Philippine economy.

"It has shown tremendous progress under her leadership and she also recognizes quite clearly the long-standing bilateral relationships between the Philippines and the US," he said.

Ms Arroyo thanked the businessmen for their kind words.

On path to permanent growth

"I am very happy and grateful for your willingness to share the good news about the Philippines with the rest of the American



PRESIDENT Arroyo is the guest of honor at a luncheon organized by the United States-Asean Business Council headed by its president Matthew Daley (third from right) on Thursday at the Waldorf Astoria in New York. The gathering of top US businessmen was hosted by American Investment Group president/CEO Martin Sullivan (partly hidden beside Ms Arroyo). MALACANANG PHOTO

business community," she said.

She told them that what they were seeing now was a Philippines "on the path to permanent growth and stability."

"Why do I say permanent? Following the pain of raising taxes with the gain of investing the proceeds in human and physical infrastructure, we should bring in investments and create jobs and that is the source of longlasting economic growth and development," she said.

She then touted the "billion

Philippines has gotten from, among other sources, the USbased Texas Instruments, Korea's Hanjin and Japan's Marubeni.

"Let me assure you that our administration will continue to focus like a laser beam on the economy because I think that focus has gone behind our best economic performance in 20 years and I hope to continue this focus to make the Philippines a better place for American investment," she said.

She delivered the same mes-

dollar plus investments" that the sage at a dinner for US compa- she told her audience. nies which attended a business processing outsourcing summit seminar hosted by the Philippine American Chamber here.

The President said the BPO conference was "oversubscribed," noting that many wanted to join.

BPO so big

"The success in the BPO industry contributed mightily to the economic renaissance going on in the Philippines right now,"

The outsourcing industry, she said, was so big now that it was slated to be a \$12-billion industry by 2010.

She said the business processing outsourcing "has become the fastest growing sector in the economy, providing 300,000 new jobs."

"But we do not want to rest on our laurels," she said.

Having established strength in call centers, the government was now focused on "growing

the higher value-added services segment of the knowledge process outsourcing industry, including accounting, legal, human resources and administrative services," she said.

"We are excited by your presence here. We encourage those who have invested, to continue to do so. And to those of you who are just getting to know the Philippines, we urge you to come explore all that the country has to offer you and your business," the President said.

Presidential guards 'shoot' Brad Pitt-with cameras, go gaga

From page Al

the first man ever to be named "Sexiest Man Alive" twice by People Magazine near the elevator leading to the private rooms at the Waldorf-Astoria

Ms Arroyo, who is here attending the 62nd session of the United Nations General Assembly, is staying at the Waldorf.

Some of the staff went gaga and whipped out their digital cameras for a picture with Pitt, who coolly posed with them.

The star of the "Oceans" series was wearing a hat and dark glasses—a disguise which failed to hide his handsome good looks, according to one PSG

Alas, Pitt's partner, Hollywood actress Angelina Jolie, was nowhere in sight.

Starstruck

Republic of the Philippines

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Mr. Kenichi Sugawara/

Initiative (CGI) held the previous day in another hotel here. Ms Arroyo herself attended the same forum the same day as the Hollywood super-cou-

Upon the invitation of former US President Bill Clinton, who organized the CGI in 2005, Ms Arroyo joined other notable people like former US Vice President Al Gore and South African Arch-Pitt and Jolie had attended a bishop Desmond Tutu in a Thursday, the President said close that the President had acting.

Equally starstruck, but with the theater world, was Ms Arroyo, who admitted to being "entranced" by the performance last Wednesday of multi-awarded Filipino singer-actress Lea Salonga in the Broadway production of "Les Miser- tics later on. ables."

and religious tensions that fore and that she used to write series in the '90s. was moderated by Clinton scripts and music for school plays.

Creative side

"That was my creative side before," Ms Arroyo said, noting that it was a different world when she joined the academe and went into poli-

This prompted Press Secre-In a chat with reporters on tary Ignacio Bunye to dis- her "daughter's" good dramatic

forum of the Clinton Global discussion on climate change she had seen the musical be- acted in a Visayan television

A grinning Ms Arroyo said she was still a senator when she agreed to appear in the telenovela "Bastonero" which was shown in Cebu.

She said she played the role of a mother whose daughter was a rape victim.

And yes, Ms Arroyo had a crying scene where she cried real tears because she was moved by

Teves admits Neri told him about Abalos' bribe offer

Teves said on Thursday. The finance secretary is part of the entourage of Ms Arroyo, who is in New York with other heads of state to attend the 62nd session of the UN General Assembly.

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bribe attempt, into which Mala- vestigation was "among the cañang has supposedly ordered

a formal inquiry. Speaking at a press conference yesterday in Manila, Presidential Management Staff chief Cerge Remonde

September 29, 2007

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Adviser - Frame

Manager - Frame

Manager – Frame Maintenance

Technical Advisor -

Technical Adviser -

Manager -- Global

Purchasing Center

Advisar - Interior

Technical Senior

President/ Sales

Director for Planning

Manager

Chel

R & D Door

R & D Bay Window

Abalos has denied the alleged said the National Bureau of Inagencies being considered" by the Palace to conduct the formal probe.

Remonde made the announcement when asked if Ms Arroyo decided to order a full investigation after Neri's testimony on the supposed bribe attempt at a Senate hearing on Wednesday.

"We've discussed that, and I think Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita [has] already ser up a formal investigation," he said.

Underway, but maybe not

Asked whether the formal investigation was underway, Remonde said Ermita had "already set that into motion."

He said Ermita could provide "more details" at the regular briefing in Malacañang next week.

But Ermita was clueless about the supposed formal investigation.

"I don't know what Secretary Remonde was talking about. I can't say... I have yet to discuss this with [him]. Maybe there is something to ask him," Ermita told reporters at Camp Aguinal-

The executive secretary pointed out that a "discreet" probe into the NBN controversy had yielded nothing.

He sought to make certain distinctions: "There is such a thing as a discreet investigation and a formal investigation. If there are enough elements [in the discreet investigation] to move forward to a formal investigation, then we will do that."

'Uncorroborated'

Before she left for New York on Tuesday night, the President said in a speech that according to a "discreet" investigation, re-



TEVES: Nonchalant

ports of bribery in connection with the NBN deal were un-

"When we learned of an alleged bribery attempt in connection with the broadband project, we instructed that the matter be discreetly investigated," she said, adding without elaboration:

"The results of the investigation were reported as uncorroborated."

At a press conference the next day. Ermita said the secret investigation was conducted by Teves and Trade Secretary Peter Pavila soon after the controversy broke out.

Ermita said it was done informally but also covered other issues surrounding the NBN deal, and "not just what Secretary Neri had informed [the President]."

He said Ms Arroyo's instruction to the two Cabinet members was to "look into all this talk about bribery [and] all this talk surrounding this deal."



NERI: Opened up to colleague

Ermita said that in their verbal report to the President, Favila and Teves said the bribery reports could not be substantiat-

Neither heads nor tails

Ermita maintained at the same press conference that the reports of bribery in connection: with the NBN deal were "uncorroborated" despite Neri's testimony at the Senate.

"At this point in time, we cannot make heads or tails of all this talk about bribery. That is the reason we feel that there's no corroboration whatsoever, as far as charges coming from people that there were bribes offered [are concerned]," he

Ermita said it was not for him to prejudge Neri, now the chair of the Commission on Higher Education (CHEd). But he' pointed out that in the same Senate hearing, Abalos denied having attempted to bribe Neri.

He said "the proper venue, planada in Manila

the court of law," should determine the correct conclusion to the case.

Taking a leaf from Sen. Miriam Santiago's observation during the hearing, he said "it's for the appropriate forum to determine who could be telling the full truth, who could be telling a half-truth, or who might be telling a lie."

Before Neri's testimony at the Senate, Ermita said there was "nothing very definite about the facts and the evidence that would warrant a full-scale investigation," but that the Palace would "pursue" one if warrant-

He said it was up to Ms Arroyo to determine, after the conclusion of the Senate inquiry, "whether there is basis for a full-scale, formal investiga-

Lost moral ascendancy

Antonio Tlnio, chair of the 15,000-strong Alliance of Concerned Teachers (ACT) said Neri had "lost the moral ascendancy" to lead the CHEd, and should resign.

Tinio also assailed Neri for refusing to reveal what he knew about Ms Arroyo's possible involvement in the NBN deal.

He said Neri had "proven himself to be no different from the Marcos-era technocrats who came face to face with plunder but willingly toed Malacañang's line."

According to Tinio, both the NBN project and the Cyber Education Project of the Department of Education were "grossly disadvantageous to the people,"

He said Neri "must be held accountable" for approving these projects. Reports from Christine O. Avendaño in New York: Michael Lim Ubac, Alcuin Papa and Jerry E. Es-

(Sgd.) ATTY. RICARDO S. MARTINEZ, SR., CESO III Regional Director

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Ban on human rights films lifted

THE MOVIE REVIEW BOARD Macapagal-Arroyo. has lifted a virtual ban on a collection of short films about human rights violations following an appeal by the moviemakers, but restricted them to viewers aged 13 and above, a member of the review board said Friday.

Last week, the Movie Television Review and Classification Board gave and X-rating and effectively banned the collection, titled "Rights," after three board members called them biased, one-sided and said they undermined faith in the government. An Xrating means a film cannot be shown for public exhibition because no theater has been granted a permit to show Xrated films.

On Wednesday, five other board members who conducted a second review of the films gave their approval but restricted the audience because of graphic scenes of torture, said lawyer Eric Mallonga, who headed the second review

The 16 films, which range in length from 30 seconds to over a minute, depict disappearances, extrajudicial killings and torture allegedly committed by security forces during the administration of President Gloria

One shows a man picking up his daughter from school. When the girl comes out of school, the man is gone. A message appears on the screen calling for a stop to enforced disappearances.

Mallonga said they agreed with the producers that their work involved criticism of "sociopolitical realities" already reported by the media, and were not calling for a rebellion against the govern-

"Upon the proper procedure there was a second review and it was given an 'R-13.' There was no political suppression, no suppression of free expression," Mallonga said.

Although the board is officially under the Office of the President, it received no instructions from Arroyo or the board chairman to suppress the films, he said.

Kiri Dalena, one of the filmmakers, welcomed the decision. but said, "I still think the reaction of the public toward the censorship ... contributed largely to the change in the decision."

Pellow filmmakers, artists and human rights activists had expressed indignation over the board's earlier decision.

She said the board could still

forcer who wants carry his firearm

off-duty will have to

apply for exemp-

tion with the Com-

criticism and dissent, citing a ban on a movie about deposed President Joseph Estrada, who has accused Arroyo, the military and the Roman Catholic church of orchestrating his removal in 2001.

The films in the collection

be used to suppress legitimate were inspired by foreign television advertisements on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Dalena said.

Dalena said she and 12 other filmmakers plan to show the films in schools and small group gatherings.



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Election gun ban starts

By Alcuin Papa

THE PHILIPPINE National Police (PNP) is implementing a nationwide gun ban effective today (Saturday) in time for the coming barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan elections on Oct. 29.

Today is also the start of the filing of certificates of candidacy for these elections. Candidates have until Oct. 18 to charges of violation do so.

Chief Superintendent Samuel Pagdi- firearms, Pagdilao lao said all Permits warned. to Carry Firearms Outside of Resi- that police, agents dences (PTCFOR) are suspended until Nov. 13.

"Owners firearms

1st Reading:

12:7-12ab) Gospel:

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Pagdilao duty. Any law enhomes,"

Any gun owner who wants to bring his firearm outside his home will have to secure an exemption from the Commission on Elections.

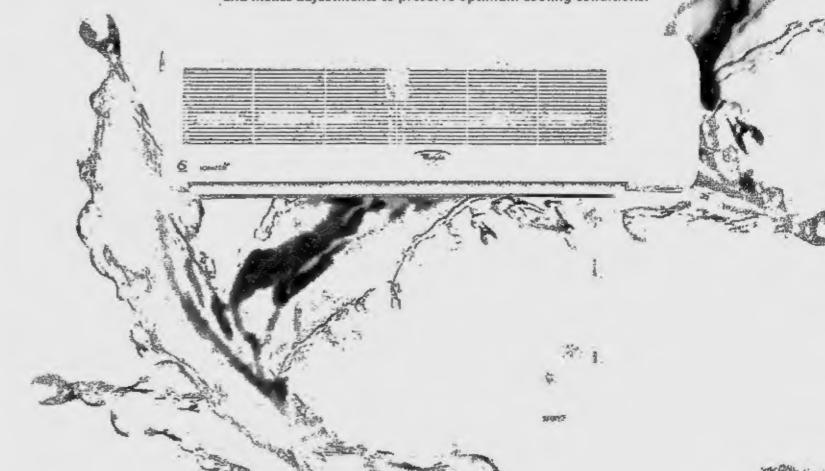
Anyone caught with a firearm not covered by any exemption from the Comelec will be promptly arrested and be slapped with of the Omnibus PNP Spokesman Election Code and illegal possession of

He also explained of the National Bureau of investigation (NBI) and military personnel are cannot exempted from the bring out their ban for as long as firearms from their they are on official

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Nathanael answered, "Master, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israeli® But Jesus replied, "You believe because I said: 'I saw you under the fig tree.' But you will see greater things then that. Truly, I say to you, you will see the heavens opened and the angels of God ascending and

Saturday, September 29, 2007 Michael, Gabriel and Raphael, Archangels

When Jesus saw Nathanael coming, he said of him, "Here comes an Israelite, a true one; there is nothing false in him." Nathanael asked him, "How do you know me?" And Jesus said to him, "Before Philip called you, you were under the fig tree and I saw you."

Dn 7:9-10, 13-14 (or Rev

John 1:47-51

descending upon the Son of Man." Commentary The angels of God, pure spirits/light/power, stand always before the throne/the face of God, in his presence, worshipping and attending to

God in his holiness and truth. They serve the Ancient One (Father) and the Son of Man doing his will in heaven and on earth. They are more 'at home' in the Spirit and presence of God, though they are also bound to us here on earth in obedience to the will of God.

They themselves have struggled to obey and they know that those who did not obey among their own now are upon the earth. But we have been given power, dominion, authority, and the testimony and Word of God to stand against them, and they do not have power over us. Even if we must die, we are given the power of the Son of Man to aide us, along with the angels' protection/witness in our lives. Jesus sees Nathanael coming toward him (each of us) but he has seen him under the fig tree. We also have been seen by God since the time of our conception and our God knows us intimately—the good and what needs to be transformed. But like Nathanael and all the disciples, we are reminded that our personal relationships with Jesus, even our relationships in community are not all that is-the angels of heaven and all that God has made are one, and called to be one in worshipping The Son of Man.

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'Stand down troops, age of impunity over'

the last time. The Burmese authorities said no, and made clear that she could never return if she left Burma. I was struck then-as now-by her enduring strength of purpose.

Even after 17 years of imprisonment and house arrest, she sends a message to the world that no confinement or prison cell, no intimidation or brutality, no personal loss or even the threat to life itself can ever destroy her spirit nor her faith in human nature-and it can never extinguish her determination that one day her people will be free.

World reminder

The grainy images that we have seen over recent days on our television screens of monks and ordinary citizens in Burma protesting against the illegitimate and oppressive regime controlling their country have once again galvanized the international community.

resolute protests, the Burmese people are reminding the world of the decision they made as long ago as 1990 to reject military rule and embrace democracy. They are telling us once again of the failure of the Burmese regime to respond to the need for change. I am appalled by the violence used by the Burmese authorities to try to suppress the peaceful demonstrations.

Poor, rich country

Burma should be one of the most promising economies in southeast Asia. Instead, it is one of the poorest countries in the region. Many live on less than a dollar a day; inflation has placed basic commodities beyoud the reach of average citizens; and, according to Save the Children, half of children under the age of 5 are chronically malnourished.

We know Burma already had one of the worst human rights records in the world: a country 2007.-Ed.

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Nov. 17-18; Dec. 6-9,15-16

Oct. 7; Dec. 2; Nov. 10.

Oct. 14 & 21

Oct. 23-28

Oct. 28

Nov. 11

Nov. 18

Nov.18

Nov. 21-25 Dec. 21-23

Nov. 25

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Dec. 1-2

Dec. 14, 15-14

Nov. 25

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Elberg the length

of only 20 million people with a thousand political prisoners, 500,000 political refugees, poets and journalists tortured for speaking out.

Stop violence

I want to tell those within the regime who order violence against the people: Stand down the troops—the age of impunity is over. They must immediately stop the violence and begin a genuine negotiation for a return to democracy. And Aung San Suu Kyi must be at the heart

For our part, the international community has an obligation to stand up for the people of Burma. It is essential we speak with one voice. At our instigation, the EU, meeting yesterday, made it clear that we will not hesitate to impose expanded sanctions if the Burmese authorities do not exercise restraint.

UN action

I have also called for the UN Through their dignified but Security Council to send a clear message to the Burmese regime to stop using violence against peaceful demonstrators. I have asked the secretary general Ban Ki-moon to send his envoy, Ibrahim Gambari, to Rangoon as soon as possible. Finally, we know that those with the most influence over the situation are Burma's neighbors. I am encouraging them to use their access to the Burmese government to ensure that the voice of the Burmese people is under-

Extraordinary bravery

The people of Burma are demonstrating extraordinary bravery in making their voices heard despite the threats and violence they face. The international community must match their commitment in finding a solution to the unacceptable situation in Burma. Britain will play its part.

This article was published by The Independent on Sept. 27,

Japanese journalist shot at clos TOKYO-A JAPANESE JOUR- News, a small agency based in to learn English after univer-

nalist who was shot dead in Burma (Myanmar) was a veteran correspondent with a passion for visiting hot spots, travelling to Iraq and Afghanistan despite the pleas of his parents.

Video reporter Kenji Nagai, 50, was hit by a bullet on Thursday as he filmed the military regime's claimpdown on demonstrations, becoming the first foreigner to die in the

He was shot in the chest at close range, according to the Japanese government, which said it would probe whether he was deliberately killed.

With a shaggy head of hair and professorial glasses, Nagai was employed by APF

Tokyo that specializes in reports from countries where most Japanese television networks dare not tread.

Nagai's motto was "someone's got to visit places that no one else will," said Toru Yamaji, the president and founder of APF News.

Photographs published in Japanese newspapers yesterday showed Nagai shaking hands with the top brass of the Palestinian Islamist movement Hamas at their Syrian base and sitting for a haircut in Amman on his way into

Hailing from a quiet town in Shikoku, the smallest of Japan's four main islands, Na-

sity and then started roaming the world, first as a writer and then with video cameras.

Nagai, a bachelor, frightened his parents with his

His mother said he had not visited the family home for several years and that she warned him not to go to dangerous countries after he told her he had been in Afghanistan.

"I asked him many times not to go, but nothing would stop him," Michiko Nagai told reporters after APF chief Yamaji went to her home in Shikoku's Ehime prefecture to offer condolences in person.

"You cannot go to a place gai went to the United States like that without determina-

tion," she said in a shaky voice.

Asked what she wanted now, she said only: "I want to see him again." Nagai was in Bangkok on a

separate assignment when Yamaji called him. He jumped at the chance to go to Burma and arrived Tuesday, with at least one of his reports already broadcast on Japanese television.

Nagai felt a passion inside him to cover humanitarian suffering, his colleagues said.

Jiro Ishimaru, the chief editor of Asia Press International, a Tokyo-based cooperative of Asian photo and video journalists, said he first met Nagai five years ago at the border between China and North Ko-

Nagai, who : documentary fil tended stretche North Koreans their lives by d the secretive si said.

"He was inter very closely and ing substantial maru said.

"He was the t nalist who went no one goes to, bidden areas of where he had to he said.

"He was a rath and was very we his interviewee was driven by h. something that doing."

Crowds taunt troops; no monks in sight

From page Al

cupying key Buddhist monasteries and cutting public internet access.

The moves raised concerns that a crackdown on civilians that has killed at least 10 people this week was set to intensify.

Hundreds of monks were detained in army raids in the early hours of Thursday on about 10 Rangoon (Yangon) monasteries seen as leading the protests.

One monk was killed in the raids, taking to six the number of & monks known to have died in the crackdown, a clergy source said.

United front

But monks told foreign Burmeselanguage broadcasters they were not going to give up. Speaking anonymously, they said they had formed a "united front" of clergy, students and activists to continue the struggle.

By sealing Buddhist monasterles, the government seemed intent on clearing the streets of monks, who have spearheaded the demonstrations and are revered by most of their countrymen. This could embolden troops to lash out pealed for an end to the violence. harder on remaining protesters.

Daily demonstrations drawing tens of thousands of people demanding an end to 45 years of mil- told the junta "to exercise utmost that killing monks could trigger a the killing.

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MAKATI CITY: The free-Burma movement here is distinguished in that it is composed entirely of Filipinos. On Thursday, different labor groups rally in front of the Burmese Embassy. To signify their disgust at the Burmese military and pay their respect to the monks' struggle, some railiers shave their heads.

itary dictatorship have grown into the stiffest challenge to the ruling junta in decades. The crisis began Aug. 19 with rallies against a fuel price hike, then escalated dramatically when monks joined in.

Hundreds of people have been arrested, carted away in trucks at night or pummeled with batons in recent days, witnesses and diplomats said, as the international community ap-

Even Burma's fellow members in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations expressed "revulsion" and

restraint and seek a political solution." Officials in neighboring Thailand said airplanes were on standby to evacuate Asean nationals in case the condition deteriorated. (Story on Page A1.)

The junta told diplomats summoned to its new jungle capital, Naypyidaw, that it was "committed to showing restraint in its response to the provocations," one of those present said.

By Burma standards, the crackdown has so far been muted, in part because the regime knows

maelstrom of fury.

Troops fired on several crowds on Thursday, and the Hong Kong based Asian Human Rights Commission said eight people were shot dead in a single incident in the northeastern Rangoon district of South Okkalapa.

Loudspeaker trucks toured South Okkalapa yesterday, in nouncing a four-hour extension in the area to the overnight curlew that was imposed on Rangoon and the second city of Mandalay on Tuesday, witnesses said.

Real number of fatalities

State-run television admitted that nine people had been killed in Rangoon, but Australian Ambas sador Bob Davis told Australian Broadcasting Corp. radio that should be multiplied several times to get the real figure.

One of those killed on Thursday was Japanese photographer Kenji Nagai, 50, (see sidebar) shot point blank-according to video footage-when soldiers charged crowds near Sule Pagoda, the fixus of more than a week of protests and now deep inside the sealed-off area.

Japan said it would decide whether to suspend humanitarian aid for Burma after investigating Reuters, AP

GMA at UN: Release Aung ...

From page A1

Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) voiced "revulsion" at Burma's crackdown on peaceful

This is the time for Burma to return to the path of democracy and to release Aung San Suu Kyi now and to involve all the parties, including the National League for Democracy, in the democratization and the constitutional process,' Ms Arroyo told the UN General Assembly.

Ms Arroyo held up the Philippines-where her administration has been accused by leftist militants of tolerating the killings of political activists—as "the most democratic country in our region."

"We have no tolerance for human rights violations at home and abroad," Ms Arroyo said in her 10-minute speech.

In a statement earlier, Ms Arroyo said she was frustrated that appeals for moderation were not getting through to Burma's rulers.

In an unusually blunt language for Asean, the nine other foreign ministers of the group-minus the Burmese foreign minister-said they were "appalled to receive reports of automatic weapons being used" on crowds and demanded the Burmese government "immediately desist from the use of violence against demonstrators."

The Asean ministers "expressed their revulsion to Burmese Foreign Minister Nyan Win over reports that the demonstrations in Myanmar are being suppressed by violent force and that there has been a number of fatalities," said the statement, issued after talks on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly.

The statement was striking because the group operates on a consensual basis and holds as a core principle "noninterference in the internal affairs of one another."

US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice called the Asean reaction "a very good statement," when she concluded a meeting with Asean ministers and two senior Burmese diplomats.

Address at UN

During the Asean meeting, which was closed to the press, Rice "made it very clear that it was unacceptable for the government to use violence against these peaceful protesters."

In her own statement before she spoke at the UN, Ms Arroyo called on the Burmese military government to end the violent crackdown on prodemocracy protesters.

"The Philippines asks the government of Myanmar to act with the utmost restraint and to rake immediate steps to preserve what advances have been made in its roadmap to democracy," Ms Arroyo said in her statement.

"Specifically, we ask the government of Myan-

mar to now allow all interested parties to take full part in the effort to national reconciliation through peaceful and inclusive dialogue," she said.

Most candid This means the release of all those who have been detained and who can contribute to the process of national renewal, including Ms Aung San Suu Kvi."

Ms Arroyo also asked Burmese authorities to invite UN Special Envoy Ibrahim Gambari to visit Burma "as soon as possible."

in a meeting with reporters at her suite at the Waldorf Astoria hotel, Ms Arroyo said that her latest statement on Burma was "the most candid statement coming from us."

She said the Philippines had been taking a strong position on Burma as early as the time of the late Foreign Secretary Blas Ople.

She recalled it was in 2005 that Manila broke away from the Asean's consensus on non-interference in the internal affairs of its members when Ople issued a strong statement against Burma.

'l am frustrated'

Asked if she felt frustrated that despite repeated Philippine calls to Burma, it was still not getting through to the authorities there, Ms Arroyo said: "I am frustrated." In her statement, Ms Arroyo asked Burma "to

act in its own best interest to avoid its further isolation and to redeem its democracy without any further delay." "We have patiently but persistently advised

Myanmar within Asean that it must make greater and faster progress toward that goal," she said.

Aside from speaking about the Philippines' concern over developments in Burma, Ms Arroyo said she also intended to talk at the UN about how important it was for the Philippines to be "globally engaged" and that was "why the UN was important to us."

"It's good for our economy to be engaged globally," she told reporters, noting that in her speech she would also talk about the Philippines' latest economic gains.

In view of the global concern for climate change, Ms Arroyo said she would also speak about the Green Philippines' campaign and its sustainable development programs.

Ms Arroyo said she planned to meet with UN Secretary General Ban Ki Moon, whom she said she had known for sometime since he used to be the foreign secretary of South Korea.

"He was very active (in getting the Philippines' good projects from South Korea). I feel we have a good friend in the UN in the person of the new UN secretary general," she said. With reports from Reuters, AFP



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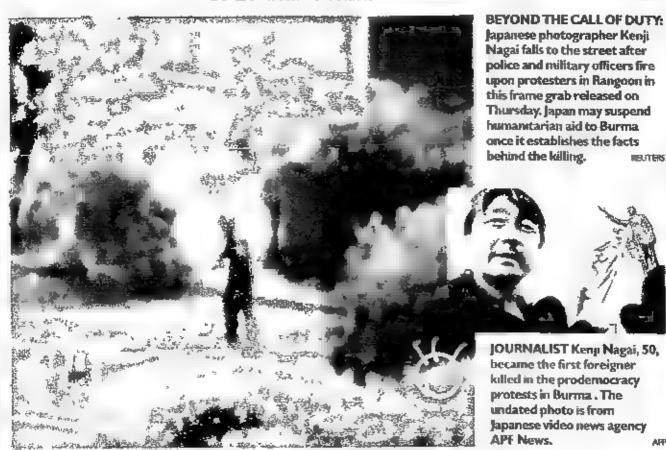
received by I think he

While much of mainstream Japanese media stay away from combat zones, a small group of Japanese independent journalists is famed for heading on tough assignments.

Two Japanese freelance journalists, Shinsuke Hashida and Kotaro Ogawa, were called in Iraq in 2004 when their car was hit by a rocketto places that propelled grenade.

Nagai's father, Hideo Na-North Korea gai, expressed outrage at his son's death.

"I want to say to those reer quiet type sponsible in Myanmar, its government, that they cannot do something so outrageous," desire to do he said "I don't want to see others aren't anything nice this ever happen aga.n."







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Omerta

◀HERE IS NO REASON TO DOUBT THAT DURING his testimony before the Senate last Wednesday, Chairman Romulo Neri of the Commission on Higher Education was telling the truth and nothing but the truth. But there is every reason to believe that he did not tell the whole truth, which is very much a part of the oath he took. Neri himself should know this; it is very clear

from his adamant refusal to answer any questions concerning the part **EDITORIAL** President Macapagal-Arroyo played in the decision-making process that led to the Chinese

firm ZTE's getting the \$329-million contract to build the National Broadband Network.

Neri needed hardly any prodding to confirm that he had been offered by Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos P200 million to approve the ZTE deal. He even volunteered the information that he had reported the bribery 'attempt to the President and had been told simply to turn The offer down. Beyond that, however, he would not reveal what Ms Arroyo said or did with regard to the NBN project.

More precisely, the former socioeconomic planning secretary could not-or would not-explain when, how and why the President made a 180-degree turn in her express policy that the NBN be established under a buildoperate-transfer scheme so that the government would not have to spend anything or extend guarantees. When asked by Sen. Loren Legarda if "any higher government official dictated that the ZTE project be given priority," Nerr refused to answer, saying his conversations with the President could not be made public without her con-

Neri would again invoke this so-called "executive privilege" in declining to give answers to questions about how the President reacted, by word or deed, to his disclosure of the bribe offer from Abalos. But on the day Neri was scheduled to go to the Senate, Malacañang, perhaps sensing that the President could be held accountable for ig-Inoring a complaint made by a member of her Cabinet no , less about criminal wrongdomg, announced that it had . conducted a "discreet investigation" on the bribery charge and found it "uncorroborated." Curiously, no one among the people who were most likely to know about the bribery case or cases was ever approached by Malacañang's ghost investigators. Not even Neri, who had ex-' posed it to the President.

The Arroyo administration was apparently trying damage control when it allowed Neri to testify and pin Abalos down on the bribery charge. But if it thought that that would satisfy the curiosity of everyone following the · scandal, then it has miscalculated badly. People want the full story, and Neri's silence only confirms for them that indeed the administration has something very rotten to

The majority of the senators know this, and they are not likely to give up any time soon their search for the missing link that might connect the President to the scandal. They have smelled blood, and they are going after bigger game. Sen. Alan Peter Cayetano, chair of the Senate blue ribbon committee, has indicated that the Senate would not let Neri get away with his claim of executive privilege. And if the issue goes to the Supreme Court, there is more than an even chance that the Court would "sustain the Senate's right to be given answers. It has already ruled that executive privilege can only be invoked in matters pertaining to national security and foreign relations. In this case, the right to remain silent can only be extended to the guilty.

Nerr has said he would not hide behind the Palace veil -of secrecy to help hide high crimes. But right from the 'start, this scandal has plunder written all over it. All that is needed to build a solid case is a few missing pieces, some of which he seems to be in a very good position to supply. The choice before him now is whether he would give them voluntarily or have them extracted from him by 2 order of the Court and the Senate.

Part of the oath of office of the prime minister of Singapore says: "I will not on any account disclose the counsel" or advice, opinion or vote of any other minister or parliamentary secretary." Nothing even faintly resembling that solemn pledge is contained in the oath of office of Filipino officials. There is no legal or moral reason for Nen to conjunue to be a party to omerta.

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Quibbling while the country is being robbed

UNDER QUESTIONING AT THE SENATE ON the National Broadband Network contract with ZTE, former Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Romulo Neri stated that he truly believed it would be beneficial for the government to operate its own network. Asked whether he thought such a project was best pursued through a government-to-government loan or through a build-operate-transfer (BOT) scheme undertaken by the private sector, he quibbled. The question lies outside the scope of his functions, he said.

Did it not bother you at all, asks Sen. Mar Roxas, that someone offered you a bribe in exchange for your approval of the project? Yes it did, Secretary Neri replies, and that's the reason I asked my technical staff at the National Economic and Development Authority to go over the project very carefully.

But you approved it anyway, Roxas presses, despite your own reservations.

Why? I was convinced it was a viable project, Neri says. Under typical circumstances, that answer would suffice. But, in Neri's case,

Because of his academic background, Neri's reputation is that of a technocrat who uses scientific reason to determine the alternative courses of action available given certain objectives. He used this image to full effect at the Senate hearing in order to avoid having to answer some questions. For indeed, the only legitimate way to argue with a technocrat is by confronting his technical arguments with your own technical arguments. That was what the paper of the two economics professors from the University of the Philippines set out to do. And that was what Roxas was trying to do when he challenged the economic assumptions of the ZTE contract.

By joining the Cabinet, New became an active participant in the decision-making process, a fundamentally political function. And so when he played a round of golf with someone who had been assiduously following up a project pending in his office, he must know

PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David

that he was doing so not as a technical person but as a political alter ego of the president. If Nert had not acted as if he did not mind assuming the role of a golf crony, would Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos have been stupid or bold enough to offer him a bribe? The usefulness of technical men like Neri to

government, especially one with a severe legitimacy and trust problem, cannot be gainsaid. The social capital they have acquired from their previous engagement in academe serves as an effective amokescreen for all the sordid deals that are transacted daily in the higher echelons of government. Those who are aware of it are sometimes called whores of power. The naïve ones who don't, sooner or later, wake up to the realities of power in which they are implicated.

Which one is Neri? Thus former professor of the Asian Institute of Management had a rare chance to define himself at the Senate hearing, something he could have done to Abalos' face when the latter offered to buy his bonor. But he retreated, leaving others once more to do the defining for him.

He leaves too many questions unanswered, and so the public cannot be blamed for filling in the blanks. How did President Macapagal Arroyo respond when he reported to her the alleged bribe offer of Abalos? He says that she told him to refuse the bribe. Then he clams up, involving executive privilege. If the whole conversauon is confidential, why did he deem it important to say that, in that conversation, GMA had told him to refuse the bribe? Secretary Neri says he is prepared to tell the truth. Isn't withholding relevant information a form of lying? It is clear he is protecting GMA. It is

time he realized how GMA is treating him.

Soon after he gives his 11th-hour endorsement of the broadband project, he is relieved of his duties as Neda director general. He is transferred to the Commission on Higher Education as acting chair. This move perplexes everyone. Neri, the man who stuck it out with GMA after half of the Cabinet resigned in 2005, tries to keep a brave face despite the implied demotion. Then media start asking him about unconfirmed reports of a P200-million attempted bribe. He neither confirms nor denies the informatton. But, he tells media, he will shed light on this issue at the right time under oath before the right forum. If that is not a self-invitation to a formal investigation, I don't know what it is

I heard Neri's interview over dzBB with Arnold Clavio and A.1 Sotto, and I became curious, wondering if he realized what he was doing. When Joey de Venecia came out and told everything he knew in a sworn affidavit, it was easy to see that a political time-bomb was ticking. There was now no way Nen could back out from naming Abalos. Malacañang quickly went on a damage control mode to insulate GMA and the First Gentleman from the anticipated explosion. And so we are informed that GMA had earlier ordered a "discreet investigation" of this bribery attempt, but that the reports yielded no corroborating information. This is clearly meant to free GMA from the possible charge of failure to enforce the law and protect the national interest. But where does this leave the loyal Neri?

"That's how he saw things," beams Eduardo Ermita, the amiable executive secretary. What he's saying is that Neri saw things and misunderstood them. One does not need to be a political analyst to know that, even as Ermita instructs poor Neri to finesse the inconvenient truths he has so far unburdened himself of, Malacañang will be standing by the man who has served the Arrayos well-Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos.

Comments to public.lives@gmail.com

What was told in what Neri did not say

FORMER SOCIOECONOMIC PLANNING SECretary Romulo Neri did his President a great disservice, whether intended or not, when he claimed executive privilege in the Senate hearings. How come? Only consider He did not hesitate to tell the Senate committee that he reported to the President the alleged bribe offer of Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos; neither did he hesitate to tell the Senate committee that she told him not to accept the bribe. In other words, on that part of his conversations with the President, which casts her (and him) in a good light, Neri did not hide behind executive privilege. But when pressed for more information on the conversations, he scuttled for cover. So what other choice would even the most sympathetic listener have but to conclude that those other parts of the conversations he refused to divulge were going to put either him or his principal in a bad light? Of course there is no question that using executive privilege would allow the already suspicious opposition to make hay-but Neri's selective use of it left little room for doubt. With that kind of friend, one no longer needs any en-

But the bigger disservice that Neri did was to the National Economic and Development Authority, which ended up looking inutile and incompetent after his explanations-contrary to what the Philippine Constitution mandates it to be: the country's independent economic development and planning agency, tasked with coordinating the government's social and economic development plans, programs and policies.

Why inutile? Well, to hear him tell it, Neda and its interagency committees are all collegial bodies (true) and he, as Neda chief, had only one vote (true). And that the chair of the Investment Coordination Committee (ICC), which recommended the approval of the NBN-ZTE project, is the secretary of finance (true). All this leads the listener to believe that he and the Neda Secretariat, which he headed, are practically helpless.



Monsod

What he didn't say was that he was vice chair of the Neda Board (where the President is chair), and was chair, or co-chair, of all its interagency committees. But his Pontius Pilate act was so convincing, I began to think that, perhaps, the Neda had indeed been emasculated. I even texted a former colleague to ask when the executive order creating the Neda had been amended to emasculate the Neda Secretariat and the director general, (I occupied the position in the first three years of the Cory government, and I knew the authority and responsibilities of the Neda Secretariat and its chief.) It was only toward the end of the hearing that he admitted he was co-chair of the ICC-but the admission was almost an aside, and I wouldn't have caught it if I hadn't been so

And if we want to quibble about the respective powers of chair vs. co-chair, the Neda director general is chair of the Infrastructure Committee (InfraCom) of the Neda Board which "Advises the President on matters concerning infrastructure development, including ... telecommunications Coordinates the activities of agencies ... involved in infrastructure development.... Recommends to the President poscies, programs and projects concerning infrastructure development consistent with nations. development objectives and priorities." How much more power does he want?

Given all that, isn't it obvious that Nen could have, and should have, stopped short the Department of Transportation and Communications and the Department of Education when

they wanted to scale up their telecom programs by four times and five times, respectively? He had very strong grounds for doing so: (1) existing policy viewed this as a private activity; and (2) the original intent was merely—to use an analogy-to connect to the existing communications superhighways, rather than to build two additional superhighways of their own.

So why didn't he do it? Because, he said, it was the line agencies' decision. To hear him tell it, he had neither the responsibility nor the authority to point out to these line agencies that they were going against stated policy. One wonders what "policy coordination" means,

which is part of the Neda's brief. As for making the Neda look incompe-tent—(1) He told his staff to be careful of the project, because he had been offered a bribe on it (see how he washes his hands again, and now the onus is on the staff) (2) Yet, when his staff reported to him that they could not vali date the ZTE cost estimates because a search on the internet yielded no information—he ei ther allowed or ordered them to accept the costs as given (because, anyway, the economic rates of return are so high, even assuming the costs are overstated—that is how he defended it). The interesting unasked (by the Senate) question is: why depend on the Internet only (or at all) when \$329 million is at stake? The only answer has to be: because there was no time to get information from other sources. Which leads to: Why was there not enough time? Ah-hah. Which leads, unfortunately, to: And why didn't the Neda staff protest that they were not given enough time to do a good job?

But to Neri goes the first prize for incompetence: He said the Neda doesn't care about the financials, its job is to compute the economic internal rate of return (EIRR) I almost fell off my chair when I heard him say that. Any economist must know that computing the BIRR starts with the financials-costs and benefits.

But then, Neri is not an economist

Measuring political popularity

LAST MONDAY, 5WS ISSUED ITS REGULAR quarterly report of public opinion on President Macapagal-Arroyo, stating that 34 percent were satisfied and 45 percent were dissatisfied with her performance, as of Sept. 2-5, 2007. The substantial difference of 11 points led to our description of the result as "negative." This was unlike the previous round of June 27-30, 2007, when Mahar Mangabas the 39 percent satisfied and 42 percent dissatisfied were so close to each other that SWS described opinions as "neutral."

Those numbers don't add up to 100 percent because many people are fence-sitters, neither satisfied nor dissatisfied. Because of the fence-sitters, a balance of opinion does not require the satisfied to exceed 50 percent in order to be favorable, it only requires them to outnumber the dissatisfied.

In evaluating presidential popularity, it is proper to compare presidents to each other at the same point in their terms—since in the beginning there is a honeymoon, and afterwards things go somewhat downhill. Presidents Aquino, Ramos and Estrada started out with Net Satisfaction Ratings above +60, and ended at between +10 to +30. President Arroyo started out at +24 in March 2001, and peaked at +30 in March 2004. Since October 2004 her net ratings have been below zero, though not always significantly.

Must one be popular to be a good president? The "Iron Lady" Margaret Thatcher was wellliked by foreign leaders, but was actually unpopular among Britons almost all throughout her two terms. She used the unifying episode of the Falklands War against Argentina as the opportunity to call for a general election. But very soon after reelection she was unpopular again.

The First Spouse. Checking into public regard for the First Spouse is common in general opinion polls-remember Bill and Hillary being called "two for one"? This week, SWS reported that only 20 percent had much trust, whereas 58 percent had little trust, in First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo, in early September 2007.





After FG Arroyo obtained a disturbing negative trust rating as early as September 2001—he had just been accused of raking a multi-million peso bribe from a telecommunications company; the SWS poll found people split into 21 percent believing the charge, 21 percent not believing it, and 58 percent saying they didn't know enough about it-SWS continued monitoring it for the benefit of its subscribers. Thus the long-standing public distrust in the FG is well known in many

After last week's sensational Senate testimony of Joey de Venecia that Mike Arroyo pointed a finger at his nose and told him to "back off" from the National Broadband Network project, SWS felt that it would be relevant to include the FG's trust rating in its media release.

For comparison, SWS polled trust in First Lady Amelita Ramos only once while Fidel Ramos was president. In November 1995, 34 percent had much trust and 33 percent had little trust in her; thus opinions were neutral. The July 1998 SWS survey, right after FVR's term, asked for opinions on Ming Ramos' performance during the previous six years and found 49 percent satisfied versus 23 percent dissatisfied with it.

SWS polled First Lady Luisa Ejercito's trust rating four times, all in the year 2000. Each time it found a plurality trusting her. Gross Trust in Loi Estrada ranged from 36 to 48 percent; Net Trust was between +11 and +26

How much do the ratings matter? The ratings are of course critical to the political futures of individuals. They led big backers to convince re- gahas@noz.org.ph

luctant men like Juan Flavier and Noli de Castro into running for the Senate.

But the ratings, and opinion polling in general, matter more to citizens as a whole, aspiring for true democracy. The sheer time-line of presidential ratings marks 1986 as the point of restoration of Philippine democracy. Polling on political popularity sprouted in Indonesia, Taiwan, and Thailand once democratic space allowed. It is practiced in Hong Kong, even after the transfer to China in 1997, as a precious freedom to be fiercely defended. Its absence in Malaysia and Singapore tells a lot about the quality of their democracies.

Boris Grushin, Russian pollster. On Sept. 24, the New York Times reported on the death at 78 of Boris Grushin, who was a pioneer in opinion polling three decades before the Soviet Union

Grushin left newspaper work in 1967, when he got his doctorate in sociology, and began to survey public attitudes at the Academy of Sciences of the Soviet Union. In the late 1980s, in the Gorbachev adviser to Russian President Boris Yeltsin in 1993.

Last year, in the journal of the Public Optmon Foundation, an independent Russian group, Dr. Grushin wrote: "Democracy is an indispensable condition of the functioning of public opinion in a given society. As yet, we have no democracy, not even the rudiments of it. This is why we should work and keep working; our society, our politicians and especially our population has to work for public opinion in Russia to become a solid institution playing a dominant role in society."

Contact SWS: www.sws.org.ph or mahar.man-

era, he helped found the All-Soviet Center for Publie Opinion, which was free to raise politicallycharged questions, including views on the government leadership and attitudes toward the Stalin era. Later he founded Vox Populi, the first privately run openion service in the Soviet Union. He was an

'A future where our horizon is all the world'

HOW DO YOU HONOR GREATNESS? MANY ways. You can put up monuments and commemorative markers. You can write books extolling the virtues of the individual through whom such greatness shines. And you can immortalize such greatness through our schools, where present and future generations continually learn and emulate the positive values that characterize it.

President Ramon Magsaysay was a great man by any standard. The values that he embodsed-integrity, honesty and the will to succeedare lessons that we all must seam and internacize, in school and in our homes

2007 and 2008 are unique milestones for the Ramon Magsaysay Award. These two years allow the Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation (RMAF) to look back and to draw from history the inspiration as well as the passion and the energy for directing the future of Asia's premier

As one way to keep the fires burning, the RMAF has been holding the Ramon Magsaysay Student Essay Competition or RMSEC every year for the past five years. Carrying the theme "The Magsaysay Awardee Who Inpires Me Most: The Magsaysay Greatness of Spirit Lives," the competition is open to all secondary and collegiate students in the Philippines. All participants are required to register online via www.rmaf.org.ph. By visiting the foundation website, secondary school principals and university or college registrats, codege deans and department chairs of the participating students also endorse online the students' participation. Essays are submitted by email to ramsec5phil@gmail.com

This year's participants are surely discovering these modern-day heroes and heroines as they research for their essays to the competition. The 5th RMSEC deadline has been extended to Oct. 12, so interested students still have time to invest in winning eight personal computers and two P50,000 grand prizes.

COMMENTARY

Lourdes Mercado-Balbin

in 1957, the tragic death of Ramon Magsaysay spurred people from this country and overseas, to keep alive forever, the man's greatness of spirit: the Ramon Magsaysay Award was established through a grant from the Rockefellers Brothers Fund and with the concurrence of the Philippine Government. The RMAF was immediately organized to administer what today is Asia's most prestigious prize.

Since 1958, there have been more than 200 laureates. It can be said that Magsaysay walks among this growing community of selfless persons and institutions, By their grit, leadership example and sheer determination, they transform lives and communities for the better.

That was Magsaysay's purpose in life, and the laureates, by their remarkable work and example, provide a sturdy lifeline to this purposeful

Beyond rituals and ceremonies, there are efforts to ensure a legacy toward an informed and inspired future for the next generations. This year and next, more seeds for human progress are be-

Digital mementoes mark the late President's birth and death anniversaries this year-Ramon Magsaysay was born in 1907 and died in 1957. The "My Guy Redux" video trilogy and its accompanying interactive video titled "Adventures With The Guy" reintroduce the much-loved Filipino leader to current and future generations. It is an appropriate companion for the book "Magsaysay The People's President," published in 2005 by former Sen. Jun Magsaysay and his sister, Mila Magsaysay-Valenzuela

FELTA, which will distribute the historical doc-

umentary, will also produce Teachers' Manuals to help mentors optimize the use of the videos in and out of the classroom. A call for contributions to The RM Collective is being made to gather personal anecdotes on the late president from the general public.

A nine-book series titled "Great Men and Wom-

en of Asia" is nearing completion, in partnership with Anvil Publishing. It popularizes literature from the formal Magsaysay Award Book of Record and will surely appeal to intermediate, secondary and college students. A counterpart GMWA-Children's edition of the

popular book senes, in 24 individual books no less, is being published as an anniversary gift from The Bookmark Inc. The man behind this generous donation is former Ambassador Benny Tan, who chaired the foundation twice and continues to help as its deputy treasurer.

The awardees' best practices will be rendered on video to share with communities worldwide and will be titled, "Ripples of Change." The awardees' lifework will be revealed as shining test cases for making a difference in a range of socual issues-democracy and good governance, the environment, poverty eradication (health and education, rural livelihood), science and sustainable agriculture, women and youth empowerment, human rights and responsible citizenship, peace and solidarity, culture and the arts.

Also in the works is an innovative survey of the award's 50 years alongside developments in the

And why not? President Magsaysay himself in 1956 said, "let us invest in a future where our horizon is all the world "

tions officer. She invites readers to visit www.rmaf.org.ph for more information.

region. To keep the dialogue fulsome and animated, other platforms are being pursued to effectively convey the strength of human innovations

Lourdes Mercado Balbin is the RMAF communica-

MJ in designer clothes; senators at each other's throats

GENERALS IN WAITING PNP CHIEF OSCAR Calderon has yet to turn over command to his successor Avelino Razon (the rites are on Monday), but the talk in Camp Crame is already about the jockeying for position for the "successor to the successor."

In the running is a three-star general whose Philippine Military Academy class is already in the ascendancy. So strategically positioned are his classmates and so vital are their responsibilities that a withdrawal of their support for government would spell doom for the administration.

The other "candidate" holds a lower rank but is banking on support from some "friends" in media to try to get him into the papers. The first general is known as an operations man while the second is known as an administrative whix

Razon retires a year from now, on Sept. 27, 2008. A. Papa

HEY, COOL IT! The interminable Senate hearings on the NBN project have taken their toll on an unlikely target: the senators conducting the probe. Near the close of the 11-hour hearing last Wednesday, some senators vented their frustration after CHEd Chairman Romulo Neri first refused to state his reason for invok-

ing executive privilege. Sen. Joker Arroyo asked his colleagues to go easy on Nerl and give him time to consult Maiacanang before the next hearing, "The department secretary can't anticipate all the questions," Arroyo said, to which Sen. Panfilo Lacson. interjected, "He's not a Cabinet member."

"Can I have the floor without interruption?" Arroyo shot back, adding after a momentary pause: "We are not policemen here." Lacson, a former national police chief, did not dare re-

Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile eventually moved for an executive session with Neri. But Sen. Jamby Madrigal said she only had a "short question" for Nerl. When her questioning lengthened, however, Enrile repeated his motion. But "short" is relative, Madrigal said.

"Sige no, para matapos lang itong kagu-luhang ito," Enrile snapped back. The hearing closed with a final verbal Joust BETWEEN DEADLINES



Richard Gordon, after the latter insisted on asking some more questions, even though other senators had already stood up.

"Do you want to quibble some more, go on executive session or ask your question now?" a peeved Cayetano asked.

Before asking his questions, a testy Gordon got back at Cayetano, saying (erroneously) that the new senator "obviously" had not chaired a committee before. "I know he just wants to be seen on TV," Gordon snapped. D. Passibugan

"I'M RICH AGAIN." After announcing his intention to withdraw the criminal cases he filed against his family and against former Justice Secretary Hernando Perez and incumbent Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez, former Manila representative Mark Jimenez seems to be a changed man. If, that is, clothes make the man.

When reporters at the Department of Justice noticed that he was no longer clad in his usual allwhite ensemble, Jimenez recited a whole string of designer names he was wearing in reply

"All I want is I can live my life, Maybe you can see I'm younger now. I'm 15 years younger. I'm in my Armani and Burberry, not anymore in my white and white. I am now with my Dolor [and] Gabbana. You see now I'm rich again," he said.

Jimenez also said his decision to withdraw the cases was unconditional, a gesture he believes he should have done much earlier. So what will the new, designer clothes-wearing MJ do from now on? Focus on his Hulog ng Langit Foundation, he said. The foundation provides aid to the poor and sponsors baptisms and other religious activities. L. Salaverria

between Sen. Alan Peter Cayetano and Sen. ZUBIRI'S FREE RIDE. A 32-seater turbo-prop

SEAir plane got an unexpected hitchliker on its flight from Pagadian City to Manila recently, when Sen. Miguel Zubiri needed a ride back to the capital.

Zubiri got a free ride from Zamboanga del Sur City, on the turnaround flight of the airline's maiden journey to Pagadian. Good thing the plane, then carrying Seair executives, aviation officials and members of the media, had room for the administration senator.

The domestic carrier launched its twiceweekly Cebu-Pagadian-Cebu flight that day, coinciding with President Macapagal-Arroyo's visit to the province. Zubiri, in fact, was at the

Pagadian airport to welcome the President, Without the usual entourage of security personnel and personal staff, the former Bukidnon representative took the window seat near-

est the door of the Dormer 328. During a stop at the Mactan International Airport about half an hour later, Zubiri obliged numerous requests for picture-taking with passengers and airport staff. The senator posed for photos in between watching ANC's live broadcast of the Senate inquiry into the

"Helio Garci" wiretapping controversy. T. Quismundo

BLAST FROM THE PAST. From the Sept. 1, 1990 using of the Philippine Daily Inquirer In a recent huddle with media people, Trans-

portation Undersecretary Josie Lichauco could only laugh while denying a column item on her. According to the item, Lichauco was seen at Kudos, a popular disco, until 5 a.m. with some showbix personalities.

"It's true that I was there," says Lichauco. "But I did not stay up to 5 a.m. I was just killing time because I had to be back in the office at 10 p.m. to meet with Secretary [Oscar] Orbos.

Lichauco said that after she developed hypertension after the July 16 earthquake, "I resolved to give myself a break from the back-breaking telecommunications work in the office, tapos sinabi pang hanggang five ako ng umaga sa dis-

Insists the still-attractive widow: "No I will not do that. I stay up until 2 a.m. but in the office, not

My Sadako

"MAN IS AFRAID OF WHAT HE CANNOT UNDERSTAND," somebody once said. If that is true, then math is my Sadako, the character in "The Ring" who freaks me out so badly that I cannot help but shriek in terror whenever I think about her. I don't scream whenever I am faced with a difficult mathematical question, but having to solve one is enough to make me break into a sweat and sob.

Unlike my fear of the supernatural, my dread for math is

YOUNG BLOOD

Connor Lindog

rational. For more than half of my academic life, math simply stumped me. And I think it's only normal for people getting pummeled by something to eventually fear that

thing. Except for the time when I was in kinder up to Grade 2

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below. - Ed.

and a brief period in college, I was always terrified of math It's not that I am inept with numbers. My problem is that it usually takes me twice as long as the next person to grasp mathematical concepts. I eventually understand the lessons, but by the time I get to the "Eureka" moment, the class is already moving to another topic. I can proudly say that I can easily solve problems involving

the four basic operations without using any electronic gadget But then I suppose that at my age that is expected of me. However, when it involves the x and y things, theorems, postulates and countless other concepts that have been snuffed out of my head already or which I never understood in the first place, I am only as good as someone who finished grade school.

So who is to blame for this predicament? Maybe I should pin it on incompetent teachers who never had the skill and competence to make me interested enough in the subject. Perhaps former classmates were also culpable for not extending a helping hand to a struggling colleague. But ultimately, the fault lies in me

My poor grades were largely due to my saziness. I know that if only I had exerted more effort in math (or all my other subjects for that matter, but that's for another article), my grades would have been a lot better. I would not have merited being featured in a Promil commercial, but at the very least my grades in math would not have begun always with 7. In fact, if I had not behaved properly during my math classes or if I had not sucked up to my teachers by volunteering to erase the blackboards, I would not have graduated from high school.

It was also in high school where I realized that the ctaim that men are better in math is a fallacy. I went to an exclusive school for boys, but even there arithmetic whizzes were a minority. During our final year in high school, many of us often questioned the practical applications of the complicated mathematical formulas we were studying. Our teachers would always answer that it helped nurture reasoning. Not true, as one experience of mine proved

During a geometry quiz we had in third year, we were required to prove that one figure was indeed a 90-degree angle by using the theorems and other stuff we had been taught. Around me, classmates with eyebrows knitted would occasionally gaze at the ceiling trying to recall what they had studied the night before and then furiously scribble their answers. Those who did not study tried to copy the answer of those who did. Me? I had nothing more to write after the "Given" I already had on my booklet. Still after I had written my guesses for the other questions and with barely a few minutes left before our teacher would ask us to pass our test papers, I added a few words, hoping they made up the correct answer to the 90-degree problem.

A week later our papers were returned, with disappointing results for me. It was not because I flunked the test, countless failed math quizzes had already erased any illusions I had about possessing an untapped aptitude for math I was disappointed because my brilliant answer to the 90-degree question was not acceptable to our teacher. I had written on my test paper: "Ma'am, I took out a protractor and I measured the angle. It is indeed 90 degrees."

If that was not reasoning skills in action, I didn't know what was. I thought that at the very least I deserved two points for my effort. OK, so it was stupid answer, but I thought it was worth a shot.

In all seriousness, however, I am not proud of being mathe-

matically challenged. It's not that we get special tax breaks for being afflicted with this condition. Also there is nothing cute or funny about a grown-up man whose greatest fears include math and a dead girl who comes out of TV screens. Nowadays, people my age should be afraid of scarier matters such as another GMA-7 rip-off/remake (e.g. "Zaido") and the reported vice-presidential aspiration of Sen. Bong Revilla Jr.

I thought I was done with math problems when I embarked on a writing career. But one fine day I suddenly realized I was wrong to think so. Some time in the future, I will have children and there's a very real possibility they would suck at math, too, if only because they are related to me. If they turn out to be as bad in math as I was, I guess I would be one of the first persons they would run to for help. So in a few more years, it's back to math for me. Such is the long reach of math's arms.

I plan to preempt this situation by hitting the books again. I hope that when I am done with this new foray into the world of numbers, I will no longer break into a nervous sweat or get all kinds of nightmares after a prolonged exposure to math. Now, if I can figure out how to stop screaming while watching horror movies, I think I'm all set.

Connor Lindog, 22, is a finance officer and writer for the independent Piupino lifestyle publication Kanto.

Notice to Youngalood contributors:

Send your contributions by e-mail to youngblood@inquirencomph together with your address, age and the school, course and year you're enrolled in or, if employed, the position you're holding and the company you work with. Contributions to Youngblood should not have been previously published.

THEY SAID

Father image

"My value system came from my father. My morals came from my father. There is nobody else that I looked up to."

- Jest 'Sosy" de Hensele III

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OPINION

Loses and gains in NBN deal

TOO BAD THAT A CONTRACT yet they get the headines. that was aimed at allowing the pupil, Juan de la Cruz Jr., to slip into the cyberworld and transform himself into a competitive, global citizen has been suspended.

In this development, there must be lessons for public executives.

First: public executives must communicate to the general public the benefits of governmentto-government agreements. Just because an executive agreement is well-intentioned and exemplary does not mean that its contents do not have to be discussed in public and subjected to scruti-

Unfortunately, critics are media-savvy; they know the power of sound bites, and they send out press releases faster than the Cabinet secretaries can post one on their pants. The critics can stir public sentiment against the deal by simply raising suspicions of corruption. They do not even have . to argue about the noble intentions of an executive agreement,

Mendez was tragic but I am con-

soled by the thought that although

the universal moral principle in-

volved is long, it bends toward jus-

measures being used by the au-

thorities of the University of the

Philippines, the premier state in-

stitution, in bending due process.

When I learned that they would is-

sue a "preventive suspension" or-

der against the officers of the Sig

ma Rho Fraternity for the latter's

alleged involvement in the

Mendez incident, I was automati-

cally reminded of the "preventive

detention" used by the Marcos

dictatorship 25 years ago in jailing 30,000 Filipinos opposed to his

However, I am aghast at the

Second, public executives can no longer resort to executive agreements in lieu of competitive public bidding. Executive agreements, especially those involving mega-billions (in pesos) for infrastructure, are very much prone to controversies.

True, there is a law that exgovernment-to-government agreements from the lengthy and time-consuming legal niceties of notifying, receiving, comparing, qualifying and selecting from among the best offers from private companies. This shortcut, this window of opportunity, is now closed because of the NBN controversy. Look at what happened. Instead of going ahead with implementing a project in the shortest possible time, the broadband deal is gone. Nobody knows when it is going to be revived.

It is better now for all public contracts to undergo the rigors of full disclosure in a public bidding. Sunshine is the best germ-killer.

THE DEATH OF CRIS ANTHONY in solitary confinement without "kangaroo court" (similar to a mil-

I am sure the lessons of martial

law are not lost on the UP authori-

ties so it is hard to imagine that they

can engage in similar Marcosian be-

havior-suspending students in vi-

olation of their fundamental right

to due process and of their right to

confront their accusers. (Just in

case the UP authorities have forgot-

ten, the rights to life, liberty and

property are so fundamental as to

require compliance with due pro-

cess and the basic standards of fair-

that the UP leadership adopts,

then I am surprised that those

who are accused chose not to par-

ticipate in this farce. The UP lead-

If this is the draconian policy

ness and justice.)

regime; some of them were placed ership might as well try them in a

access to lawyers or the courts.

Don't forgo due process in Cris Mendez's case

Third, government and the private sector have to agree on an ethical issue: are tied-loans a form of corruption? When two countries sign a supposedly concessional loan agreement in which the recipient country can only use the services or materials of the nationals of the other country, does this not mean fa-

If there are similar executive deals, particularly those involving infrastructure, government executives should preempt critics and frame these deals as beneficial to the general public before the critics vilify them

I believe President Macapagal-Arroyo wants the physical infrastructure built within deadlines and in terms that are aboveboard and credible. The fastest and most efficient way, however, at this point is for her to insist that her Cabinet secretaries work through competitive public biddings.

-ROMEO J. PAJARILLO, rjpajarillo2002@gmail.com

itary tribunal during martial law)

and find them guilty and condemn

them to the stake to appeare the

mob crying out for blood or to sat-

isfy the opportunistic politicians

who are prone to political postur-

ing. In this way, UP can avoid all

pretensions of fairness and justice

which the institution proclaims it

Finally, let me convey a passage

from the lawyer's pledge to UP au-

thorities: "to be at all times, even

at personal sacrifice, a champion

of due process, in court or not, for

all persons, whether they be pow-

erful or envied, or my neighbors,

or be among the helpless, hated or

garbanzosi@mail.law.cuny.edu

-SID GARBANZOS,

to be on the loose in Caloocan City

Flesh trade seen

(Paulippine

STROLL ALONG RIZAL AVENUE Extension around the corner of 2nd, 3rd and 4th Avenues and you wouldn't miss noticing beer and karaoke joints serving as a marketplace for the flesh trade in Caloocan. Worse, walk along A. Mabini, and when you get several meters away from the city hall you'll see similar establish-

From the time I first became aware of the social assues around me more than two decades ago, Pve heard four Caloocan mayors, including the incumbent mayor, Enrico Echeverri, declaring war prostitution. And oddly enough, I observed that they usually would make such declaration in their first few months in office. As we say in vernacular idiom "pri pogi lang." Good or bad, intentional or not, media have been part of

I just hope that Mayor Echeverri would be unlike his predecessor and would really push for meaningful reforms in Caloocan. His constituents deserve more than the cosmetic public relations campaign. What we would like to see is a more innovative, aggressive approach in addressing the city's most basic and pressing concerns-crimes, pollution, unfriendly business environment, poor health service and, of course, housing tack.

Address these concerns, and the incidence of prostitution will go down to an insignificant level-with or without media hype.

-GERALDO MANALO, gmanalo@gmail.com

Health Care Bill with the promotion of abortion is a misinformed and misleading exercise. (INOUR-ER, 9/19/07) No reproductive

House Bill 17 not pro-abortion

health bill filed in Congress seeks to legalize abortion. In fact, the prevention of abortion and management of post-abortion complications are key components of the

bill (Sec. 5).

The recognition that abortion is prohibited and penalized under Arricles 256-259 of the Revised Penal Code remains. But there is also a recognition of the critical need-when abortion is resorted to despite the prohibition-to manage post-abortion complications in a humane and compassionate manner. A patient shouldn't be left to die just because she is poor or desperate.

The bill will penalize health care service providers that refuse to attend to these patients (Sec. 15, HB 17), just as Republic Act 8344 sanctions hospitals and medical climes that deny appropriate unitial medical treatment to emergency and serious cases. This fundamental protection should be given to the Pilipino patient, this is not promoting abortion.

With their needless focus on abortion, the bill's critics fail to appreciate the crucial elements of reproductive health care that, among others, address: (1) maternal, in fant and child health and nutrition, (2) the promotion of breastfeed-

EQUATING THE REPRODUCTIVE ing. (3) family planning and information services, (4) the prevention of abortion and management of post-abortion complications, (5) adolescent and youth health, (6) the prevention and management of RTIs. HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted infections, (7) the elumination of violence against women, (8) education and counseling on sexuality and sexual and reproductive health, (9) treatment of breast and reproductive tract cancers and other gynecological conditions, (10) mate involvement and participation in reproductive health, and (11) the prevention and treatment of infertility and sexual dysfunction.

> Clearly, HB 17 is not an advertisement for abortion and sexual promiscuity, but an advocacy for reproductive health as a basic human right And as state-party to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (Cedaw), the Philippine government must protect and facilitate the enjoyment of this right. The passage of the Reproductive Health Care Bill into law, not knee-jerk arguments from its critics, ensures that.

> > -MARIE HAZEL LAVITORIA SALIGAN, Sentrong Alternatibong Lingap Panligal, G/F Hoffner Bldg., Social Development Complex, Ateneo de Manila University, Loyola Heights, Quezon City

Daring 'cloud-seeder' lauded

APPLAUSE FOR CAPT GIEMEL, Espino, ("Daring PAP rainmaker wins award," INQUIRER, 9/24/07) While aviators generally do try to avoid douds while flying, cloudseeding pilots "go for it," so to

I know. My dad, Capt. Benjamin. Baculpo, was one. He used to go cloud-seeding in the provinces of lloilo and Tugegarao. His second of three plane crashes happened

when he was cloud-seeding in Hoile in 1996.

The plane was completely wrecked, but miraculously he just sustained bruises. No senous or grave injury. The crash didn't stop him from bringing rains to the driest areas in the Philippines.

To Captain Espino, well done and all the best!

> -MARILYN BACULPO, mcbaculpo@bipgond.com

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Kwok losing faith in his anti-graft fight in RP?

TONY KWOK, THE PRESIDENTIAL ANTIgraft adviser said the fight against corruption is an uphili battle because of weak laws, slow judicial system and public cynicism. (INQUIRER, 8/4/06) The reason for this, he said, is that the anti-graft laws are madequate; and our lawmakers failed miserably in providing the Office of the Ombudsman enough investigative pow-

Kwok's line of reasoning is unsustainable.

The Office of the Ombudsman does not lack teeth. It has all the investigative and prosecuting powers it needs. Kwok should have read the law.

2. It is unfair for Kwok to say that the antigraft laws are madequate. Our laws, criminal and administrative, against graft are suffi-

On the slow judicial system, I agree with him. The Ombudsman and the Sandiganbayan should work double time in deciding

As to public cynicism, I think Kwok hit the

nail right on the head. The public seems to forget cases about graft

The Inquistra's March 11, 2005 editorial, ritied "Starving the corrupt," quoted Kwok as saying that he was "confident that given the effective enforcement and successful prosecution by the Office of the Ombudsman and partnership approach is this corruption-prevention project, it is possible that this three-year project will see marked improvement in the eradication of corruption in the country."

The time is almost up (two years and nive months). Why can't Kwok show proof of reduced graft and corruption?

Kwok is currently overseeing projects funded by the European Union to improve government agencies' internal anti-corruption mechanism and by the US government, why can't he make a report about the projects?

Why did Kwok have to wait for the Philippines to be dubbed the most corrupt in Asia?

-GUALBERTO J. DELA LLANA, Castillejos, Zambales

Erap cannot be pardoned under plunder law

AS SOON AS THE SANDIGANBAYAN READ its verdict finding former President Joseph Ejercito Estrada guilty beyond reasonable doubt of the crime of plunder, politicians of all shades and colors have called for clemency.

Former Vice President Teofisto Guingona Jr., a noted nationalist, who started the ball rolling by accusing Srap in the Senate, said that the former president had suffered enough. Sen. Manuel Villar, the president of an administration-ruled Senate whose members are mostly from opposition ranks, pleaded for amnesty. Sen. Mar Roxas, seen as a presidential candidate in the coming 2010 elections, filed a resolutton for pardon.

Indeed, one and all commented on the possibility of pardon, stressing that others—especially in the present government-appeared more rapacious than Estrada. We ourselves were mystified by these Christian protestarions because, at the impeachment trial, al-

most everybody was ready to lynch Brap. It is amazing that amid the calls for Christian chanty and presidential elementy, the prohibition on the granting of pardon to any person convicted under the law on plunder (RA 7080) is totally lost.

-NELSON D. LAVIÑA, ambasssador (ret.), niavina2@fastmail.fm

Dialogue helps GSIS serve better its clientele

WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK MEDARDO Mercado of the Manila Public School Teachers Association (MPSTA) for stressing the need for the Government Service Insurance System to dialogue with public school teachers and come up with meaningful solutions to issues concerning their benefits. (INQUIRER, 9/25/07)

The GSIS has had quite a number of discussions with the MPSTA as well as with other Department of Education employees' groups. In fact, the GSIS just had a dialogue with DepEd personnel organizations last Sept. 20.

We would like to point out, however, that the fruits of a dialogue do not grow overright

The demands of DepEd employees need to be properly deliberated upon, and consequent acnons require some measure of adjustment on the part of the GSIS.

What is important, though, is that the communication lines remain open. The GSIS, for its part, looks forward to this exchange of views because this feedback mechanism anables the GSIS to serve its stakeholders better.

-KLIA E. VALENCERINA, vice president, Public Affairs Office, Government Service Insurance System, Financial Center, Pasay City

Let NBN 'players' submit to lie detector test

THE SENATE INVESTIGATION OF THE BROAD band deal has cost the government millions of pesos plus precious hours, all lost to grelevant, stupid and repetitious questions, AL those questioned, despite their inconsistent answers, claimed they were telling the truth. The senators became students of the Cabinet secretaries. The secretaries wasted almost eight hours watching a xurzuela instead of attending to their jobs. They came in full force just to show their support for the questionable characters involved in the broadband scandal. What a shame!

It was frustrating to watch some senators acting as defenders and lawyers of the accused. How much are their fees? Shame on themi

If the senators sincerely want the people to know the truth and nothing but the truth, I challenge the Senate to compel all those in volved to submit themselves to a lie detector test. Refusal should be taken as a sign of guilt Let us do it the way it is being done on the TV show "Truth or Lie." And show the tests live on

If the President won't allow it, we know where the guilt points to-to the mystery "small one" and "big one."

The Filipino people want the truth. Give it to —GEORGE B. REYES. 10 Tamarınd Rd.,

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Editor Jun Bandayrel Bureau Chief Edralyn L. Benedicto

No rocket science needed for teacher's award streak

By Ma. Diosa Labiste Inquirer Visayas

LOILO CITY—IF LIFE'S A LOTTO, SCIENCE teacher Josette Biyo has won it several times.

other grand prize, the Presidential or Lingkod Bayan award, given by the Civil Service Commission (CSC) to government workers in recognition of their commitment to the ideals of public service.

director of the Philippine Science High School in Western Visayas, exemplifies that dedication as a government employee.

Biyo, who has a doctorate in biology, was cited for "developing a culture of science among the youth through research, resulting in the high quality of researches of students and faculty members, gaining both national and international recognition.™

Her work on "introducing science research modules and innovations, giving motivational speeches makes her a worldclass teacher worthy of emulation," according to the CSC.

On Sept. 19, she copped an- ual recipients of the Lingkod Bayan awards. Other awardees are Air Force Capt. Gremel Espino, Trade Undersecretary Zenaida Maglaya, Chief Supt.

Samson Tucay and Gov. Rolando

Yebes of Zamboanga del Norte. Two institutional awards And Biyo, 49, who is also the were given to the Benguet State University for developing potato and sweet potato varieties for the Cordillera, and the Philippine General Hospital.

Most meaningful

"I have won many top awards but this (Lingkod Bayan) is the most meaningful of them all. The screening was rigid and I didn't expect to emerge as one of the five winners," said Biyo.

She felt honored to have competed with politicians and ordinary government workers who must have spent years doing their work unrecognized.

Biyo, who joined the govern-

recognized as an outstanding from the Manila Central Univerpublic employee, aside from being a science teacher.

As a winner, she is entitled to an automatic promotion of a salary equivalent to the next higher position, but the latter is more likely since she is already holding the top position as a director.

The award also comes with a prize of P100,000

Past awards

Before she received the Lingkod Bayan, Biyo had won several coveted national and international awards that come with handsome cash prizes. The biggest was the 2002 Intel Excellence in Teaching given in Lousville, Kentucky, in the United States. She not only bagged \$5,000 but, as part of recognition, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Lincoln laboratory also named an asteroid (minor planet) after her

The Intel award propelled her to celebrity status and opened the door for more awards (a room in her house is filled with these awards).

Biyo is one of the five individ- ment in 1994, is proud to be gree of doctor of humanities filed by magazines and coffee

sity and numerous invitations to give speeches in the country and abroad.

She also became an endorser of insurance and a pharmaceutical company that eventually supported some science research projects of students, and received citations and medals of merit from President Macapagal-Arroyo, the Senate and expatriates in the US for being the first Filipino and the first Asian teacher to win the Intel award.

Biyo was named one of the Ten Outstanding Young Men in 1998. She received the Metrobank Outstanding Teacher in 1997 and the 2004 Metrobank sward "fot those who stand out for continuing excellence and service." The first one has no cash reward, but Metrobank gives P100,000 to

Press darling

Biyo was recognized as outstanding flonggo in the field of education by the Iloilo provincial government in 2003

She is a "press darling" or a She received an honorary de- bankable personality to be pro-

table book writers. The stories e-mail, letters and feedbace they wrote confer on her more recall, a face to an otherwise cutoff world of science teaching, and an interesting book and angie to attract more readers.

For example, the repeated quote was from Biyo's book published in 2005 and titled "A Trip to Planet Biyo: I dreame of stars ... I got a planet." The book, which she distributed to students, schools and private groups, has the message Being a teacher is a noble profession; being a Filipino is something to be proud of."

Biyo said many had listened to her message, as shown by the

that she got. She believed tha she "has inspired individual! and companies to pursue their dreams, and even convinced several people, especially teachers, doctors and nurses to stay in the country."

Biyo tries to wear her celebri ty status lightly. She said through SMS: "In winning the awards, you don't have to be somebody else. Just be yoursel and enjoy what you are doing No rocket science needed. Jusconsistency of purpose and giv ing the best of your self for the glory of God and country."



JOSETTE Biyo of Phil. Science High School shows her plaque for recognition as Gawad Lingkod Bayan.

Heavenly fill of Negros 'piaya'

By Carla P. Gomez Bacolod City

EGROS' MUSCOVADO SUGar, which is gaining popularity in the growing health-conscious global market, is synonymous with those mouth-watering pastries only its people can make best.

fined sugar, which still contains the minerals and vitamins originally found in sugarcane, has a pleasant bitter-sour taste from pastry reinventor Millie Kilayko.

It is also this sugar that makes Negrense ! pastnes delightfully different, bringing back memories of the old days of leisure and long lunches.

Carrying on the tradition of making muscovado-laced pastries are second Maritess COUS, DS Sanchez of Silay City's famous El Ideal and Kilavko of Casa Carmela in Bacolod KILAYKO'S "piaya"-crisp, light and thin City. Both come from

old Silay families who have a reputation calls "piayito," and healthy versions using that revolves around delicious meals capped by desserts.

Sanchez and Khayko also live in the homes they have known since birth, and their factories are just a flight of stairs down their living quarters.

Sanchez has chosen to remain close to her workplace to continue the family business that was passed on to her-along with all its original recipes. Kilayko finds her proximity to her factory the best assurance to meet the best manufacturing practices, especially sanitation.

"As I take my dady 30-minute walk around my garden, I can poke my eyes into the work site and check on the way it is cleaned before the rest of the workers come in," Kilayko said.

Handed-down traditions

Sanchez's and Kilayko's links with the past are perhaps the reason they have a devotion to "perpernate" the recipes of old.

Sanchez said her grandfather, Cesar Locsin, together with his two sisters began making cookies before going solo by starting El Ideal Bakery on Rizal Street. El Ideal, for three generations, has been the place where travelers buy the deliciously sweet pasalubong items for friends.

Locsin passed on the business to Sanchez's mother, Ahcia Locsin Villanueva, who, in turn, passed it on to her.

Many of El Ideal's sweets are made with praya fortune cookies. muscovado sugar that the growing health conscious population see as a healthur option, she said.

Among the products are its golden brown angel cookies made from cuttings of hosts served during communion, high-fiber muscobite" cookies made with wheat

flour, guava-apple pies, butong-butong (chewy sugar nougats) candies, and "musco bars" similar to butterscorch.

And, of course, the star of the delicacies is the "playa" still made the way Sanchez's grandfather did three generations ago.

Kilayko, on the other hand, has a passion for creating new products using the personalties of the old and traditional, innovating from what has been handed down to pre-The dark brown, slightly coarse, unre-sent generations of cooks, and putting fresh change into them before handing them over to the next

Last year, Kilayko introduced her version molasses not found in regular sugar, says of the "piaya"-crisp, light and thin, unlike the original playa that has a thicker layer of

muscovado wiched in it. White the new product gives one's palate only a delicate flavor of muscovado sugar between fine layers, it still carries the personality of the one prepared by generations of cooks before

Inspired by the success of her reinvention, Kilayko introduced bite-size "piaya," which she

whole wheat.

Casa Carmela's crisp and thin "piaya" also come with different personalities: tropical (mango, banana and ube), gourmet (after-dinner dark chocolate with mint, cinnamon and espresso), cocktail (low salt, pesto and country herb) and low sugar (a blend of muscovado sugar and Splenda).

However, the ones with muscovado sugar filling-whether they be using traditional flour recipe or the healthier whole wheat dough-still remains the most popular, Kirayko sard.

Trade fair

Kilayko and Sanchez are among the 73 Negrense producers who are bringing their products to the Association of Negros Producers' (ANP) 22nd Negros Trade Fair at Rockwell in Makati City on Oct. 3-8. The group banners "Innovation and Remvention" as this year's theme.

This time, Kilayko said she would be combining the two most popular delicacies - "pidyu" and "barquillos"—all in a bite.

quality service

w/ langest

Keeping its crisp and thin features, and retaining the fine layer of muscovado filling of her putyo, it is rolled into the shape of the barquillos. This new product Kilayko calls parquillos is a perfect match to a scoop of ice cream or a cup of coffee.

Kilayko also makes crispy piaya ice cream cones and accepts orders for crispy

Organizing the trade fair "is not just to create a shopping venue, but to continually seek and tap new domestic and international markets and bolster inter-provincial and international linkages," said Doreen Alicia Peña, ANP vice president for trade fair and marketing.

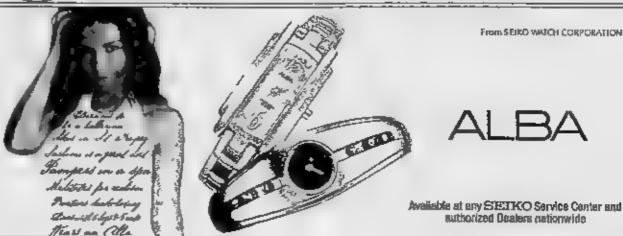


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Mining firms buying tribe support

By Melvin Gascon

Inquirer Northern Luson

BAYOMBONG, NUEVA VIZCAYA—TWO FOREIGN FIRMS HAVE won the support of tribal communities for mining exploration in orench areas in Kasibii town through cash promises, documents showed.

merly Oxiana Philippines Inc. (OPI), has committed to give "monthly salaries" of P3,000 to P4,000 to 34 Bugkalot elders and leaders who approved its twoyear exploration project in the villages of Pao and Kakidugen in eastern Nueva Vizcava

The amount is their supposed compensation as "lisison officers" for the duration of the project, according to a compliance

Royalco Resources Ltd., for- certificate issued by the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP).

More promises

The certificate was issued to indicate that the Bugkalot tribe has given its free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) to Royal co's exploration site in the villages of Pao and Kakedugen, which are part of its ancestral domain in eastern Nueva Vizcaya.

Royalco has also pledged to provide a "trust fund" of P150,000 to the Bugkalot Indigenous Cultural Community

It has promised to give landowners P3,000 in "land rental" for every hole drilled within his property that are part of the exploration project.

On the other hand, Oceana-Gold Philippines Exploration Corp. (Ogpec) has also given P50,000 to barangay officials of Papaya upon signing of an agreement expressing their approval of its exploration project.

It pledged to give the village a quarterly payment of P30,000 for "community development projects" in the village, the agree-

ment entered into by Ogpec and consent "Rather, we support Papaya officials showed.

Officials of the mining companies denied that they were bribing the tribal leaders for them to approve the exploration projects.

"The thrust of the company is development, so that when we explore and we don't find anything feasible (after the mining exploration), we hope that even when we leave the area, our programs can have an impact on the lives of the people," said Jory Nelson Ayson, Royalco country managet

Ramonerto Gozar, Ogpec vice president, said it is not company policy to bribe people to get their

livelihood community development and the improvement of the standards of living of the Papaya community as direct beneficianes of the project," he said.

What the companies did is "exploitation," said Bernabe Almirol, convenor of the nongovernment group Dapon Indigenous Peoples Center Inc.

How can there be free consent from the affected tribe when they are being lured with money in exchange for their approval [of the project]? This clearly is exploitation of our indigenous peoples," said Almirol.

Most residents in Kasibu have remained steadfast in opposing free from any mining activity.

mining in their communities, and rejecting the benefits being offered to them by the companies, he claimed.

Royalco personnel failed to enter the exploration site last month after Kalanguya, Ifugao and Bugkalot villagers set up a barricade and stopped the entry of heavy equipment by sitting in the middle of the mountain road in Paquet Village.

Residents of Papaya signed a pention rejecting Ogpec's exploration project, citing a barengay ordinance that declared their village a watershed area and, thus,

325 A 专品

ENCROACHMENT

EV ESPARTURNOLINER MORTHERN LLCCM

The rice terraces of Hugao are slowly, but surely, getting smaller as increasing population keeps driving people closer and closer to the edges of the famed farms.

Protesters say dredging source of corruption

LEGAZPI CITY-PROTESTERS for labor-intensive dredging demanded transparency in the P655-million project to dredge corrupt public works officials.

Church groups and other organizations marched to the DPWH regional office near Heavily-silted Agumas University here, where Mass was celebrated for those who died at the height of Supertyphoon Muenyo a year ago

Joel Calla, head of the People's Quarry Movement secretariat, said the poor should benefit from the P655 million project by making it labor-intensive instead of mecha-

Calla said the Yawa River should be declared an open quarry site

"The series of calamities worsened poverty," he said.

of rivers, which uses hand tools to dredge and quarry rivers here, raising suspicions it sand, gravel, and boulders, was just being used to enrich against the mechanized method, which the DPWH At least 200 members of claimed has already been completed.

The Yawa River is integral in receiving and holding floodwater coming from the gullies of the Mayon Volcano, especially during typhoons.

It became heavily-silted after volcanic debris from the volcano were washed out by heavy rainfall brought by

The DPWH's mechanized

"The people should be primary participants in projects being implemented by the government. They should be informed and consulted, which never happened in the implementation of the dredging projects," Calla said.

Asked where sand dredged from the rivers go, DPWH Regional Director Orlando Roces said they use them as fillers of dumps while some serve as earth-dike structures on river-

Dredging projects

Some of the aggregates, he Supertyphoon Reming last said, were stockpiled at the regional center site but he The movement estimates that clarified that the agency is 50 quarry sites can fit in the 11- not, in any way, making monkm over that leads to the Albay ey from the dredging pro-

Roces added that all the pro-His group has been pushing dredging of the Yawa River jects were consulted with au-

alone costs more than P60 mil- thorities, like disaster agencies and local government offi-

> He said these authorities represent the people so it's not true that the people's right to become involved is being under-

He said the DPWH followed procurement procedures prescribed by Republic Act 9184 or the Government Procurement

"All dredging projects underwent open bidding. They can always come to this office to check on the documents, we are very much open," Roces

He added that the DPWH does not oppose open quarry in the Yawa River but was wary that flood-control structures along the river channel might be damaged by unregulated Ephraim quarry activities Aguilar, Inquirer Southern Lu-

METROBRIEFS

Scholarships for OFW dependents

DAVAC CITY-The government is offering 100 scholarship siots to qualified dependents of overseas Filiping workers.

Ron Lionel Bartolome, Overseas Workers Welfare Admin stration (Owwa) chief for Southern Mindanao, said scholars will be selected nationwide through competitive tests.

He said applicants should not have enrolled in any post secondary Joselle Badilla, Inquirer Mindanao courses to qualify.

Ban on stalls, liquor in fiestas

ILDILO CITY -Priests in this city asked the city government to ban stalls and alcoholic drinks in public plazas during fiestas

In a letter to Iloilo City Mayor Jerry Treñas, 27 priests under the VIcariates of Saints Peter and Paul of the Jaro Archdiocese urged the mayor to stop "turning the plaza(s) into a market place and a source of noise pollution" during flestas. Nester P. Burgos Jr., Inquirer Visayas

Goring' destroys Bacolod houses

SACOLOB CITY—A whirtwind, brought by tropical storm Goring. struck a village here and destroyed four houses.

Alfredo Enslaga, an owner of a damaged house, said he was sleeping when the whirlwind struck

Debris hung from electric cables after the whirlwind passed. Carla P Gomez, Inquirer Visayas

Mangrove planting in Sorsogon

PRIETO DIAZ, Sorsogon—Thousands of students, government employees and members of various private organizations trooped to this coasta town Sept. 19 in a mass mangrove planting

Reynulfo Juan, regional executive director of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, said the mass planting was part of the Green Philippines program, which aims to plant at least 20 million trees Bobby Labalan, Inquirer Southern Luzon nationwide.

Couple held for illegal fertilizer

CAMP OL VAS. Pampanga-The police's Criminal Investigation and Detection Group in Balacan arrested a couple suspected to be behind the manufacture of flegal tertifizers in the province

CIDG Bulacan chief Supt. Hitchie Posadas said the search on the house of suspects Manolito and Lynn Ramos in Bustos, Bulacan on Monday yielded 12 bottles of a liquid fertilizer brand, 85 pieces of empty plastic bottles, four plastic drums, 13 bundles of packaging carton, sales invoices, posters and a wooden padd a believed to be used in mix-

ing chemicals The search came after police and a representative of the Fertilizer and Pesticide Authority arrested the Ramos couple in a buy-bust operation Tonette Orajas, Inquirer Central Luzon on Sept. 13.

Free artificial limbs to poor

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—The Kapampangan Development Foundation and the Physicians for Peace are giving free artificial limbs to poor amputess in Pampanga every first Saturday of the month starting Oct. 6

KDF chair Rizar no Navarro and president Benigno Ricafort and PFP president Dr. Teodoro Herbosa said the project, dubbed "Walking Free Pampanga," supports Pampanga Gov. Eddie Panisio's health program Tonette Orejas, inquirer Central Luzon

NPA reb killed in Sorsogon

SORSOGON CITY-A former member of the League of Filipino Students, who had joined the New People's Army (NPA), was killed in a clash with government troops Sept. 23 in Bulan town

Lt. Col. Rodrigo Gregorio, commanding officer of the 2nd Infantry Battalion, said Mateo Lovendino, 27, a resident of Balaguer St., Daraga Albay, was a member of a 20-man NPA band which encountered a nineman Army team at about 5.40 a.m. in Barangay Butag.

Bobby Labalan, Inquirer Southern Luzon

Arroyos accused of evading CARP

By Carla P. Gomez Inquirer Visayas

BACOLOD CITY-A FARMERS group criticized the Arroyo famity for allegedly using trade agreements with China and the Biofuels Law to keep a huge property in Negros Occidental

from agraman reform. While Rep. Ignacio Arroyo (Negros Occidental, 5th District) had said that the Rivulet Agro-Indusmal Corp. owned the 157-hectare Hacienda Bacan, Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (KMP) chair Rafael Mariano maintained that

the Arroyas own the company. Mariano claimed that the Arroyos are trying to protect their land through the government's agreement with China and the Biofuels Act

saying that the farm is to be used to build an ethanol plant. They are using the argument that commercial and industrial lands are exempted from distribution," Mariano said.

Representative Arroyo, however, said the KMP charges are not true.

While KMP accused the Ar royos of using RP-China pacts as an excuse for the conversion of their property into an industrial estate for the building of an · ethanol plant, Chinese investors who had expressed interest in investing in Negros Occidental were eyeing Murcia town and Kabankalan City, not Isabela.

Two memorandums of agreement, inked in China October last year in the presence of President. Macapagal Arroyo, an-

"Now the Arroyo family is volved the construction of two ethanol plants in Negros Occidental estimated to cost \$65 million and were expected to create thousands of jobs, Representative Arroyo said earlier.

He denied that his brother owned the farm or that he is one of the Rivulet owners.

Provincial agrarian reform officer Teresita Depeñoso said records showed that First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo bought the Hacierda Bacan in Isabela town in 1994 but added that it is possible that he sold it since.

What the DAR has are titles of the property as of March 19, 2001 that includes a certificate of sale of the delinquent property issued by the office of the Isabela treasurer for Title 105742 Lot 41 - covering 157,2992 hectares with

entry number 361407 dated April 1994, Depeñoso said.

The final bill of sale at public auction on April 8, 1994 states that the property was sold to Jose Miguel Arroyo, she added.

The area where the property is located was reclassified from agricultural to an industrial estate by the Isabela town government on Sept. 27, 2005, Depeñoso said.

Agrarian Reform Secretary Pangandaman said his department's legal department is studying whether or not Hacienda Bacan could be covered by land reform as it has been reclassified into an industrial estate.

Pangandaman also said he has yet to see the documents to determine if Hacienda Bacan is owned by the First Gentleman as alleged by Task Force Mapalad.



LAGUNA RAMP

Sen. Loren Legarda troops the line of school cadets upon her arrival in Victoria, Laguna, to attend the Alay Lakad 2007 activities last Sept. 20.

Raise case to SC, Palace tells Senate

planning secretary, "cannot be compelled" to testify on matters spoken in confidence between Ms Arroyo and members of the

Apostol had said there was no "clear-cut" resolution in the high court's ruling.

"It says the Senate may bring the matter to the Supreme Court if the executive refuses to answer [questions]," Apostol had said.

Letter from GMA

According to Remonde, the letter from the President authorizing Neri to invoke confidentiality under the doctrine of executive privilege was "being prepared" by the office of Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermi-

Ermita had earlier said that Ms Arroyo, through his office, would be "ready" to provide Nen the authorization per the Supreme Court ruling "stating that [executive privilege] can be invoked only by the President or through the executive secretary by order of the Presi-

Yesterday, Ermita said he did not give new guidelines to Neri for the resumption of the latter's testimony at the Senate next week.

"The guidelines are the same." Depending on the conditions, our Cabinet members should know when and how to invoke executive privilege. That remains the same," Ermita said.

of governance that we feel should not be divulged for some important reasons."

Ermita said Cabinet members had the right to invoke executive privilege in refusing to answer certain questions.

This is a legal matter that is supported by jurisprudence,"

IDV's advice

Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr. aired a prece of advice for Nert, his longtime budget and planning officer in the House of Representatives.

'Answer all the questions. That's my advice to him," De Venecia said when asked what he thought Neri should do.

"But he is covered by executive privilege. We should respect that," the Speaker said

Asked if Nen should resign or take a leave of absence in order for him to be exempted from EO 464, the Speaker said: "He's a brilliant Cabinet official. He knows what he's doing."

De Venecia compared executive privilege to a journalist's privileged information.

"Neri is covered by executive privilege. He cannot be compelled to talk [about his conversations with the President], like

"[Journalists] can't be compelled to reveal ... certain information [relative to their profession, such as sources of news]."

A group calling itself

(Lango) is also looking to the Supreme Court to resolve the NBN controversy once and for

Latigo yesterday asked the high court to use its power of judicial review to annul the \$329million NBN deal on grounds that it violated Philippine laws for extravagant use of public

The group also asked the high court to compel the government to open the NBN project to public bidding in accordance with the law.

It said the tribunal could use its power to study the contract signed by Transportation and Communications Secretary Leandro Mendoza on behalf for the government, and to strike it down "for having been entered into in gross, deliberate and wanton violation of constitutional and statutory provi-

The NBN project, which entails connecting government of fices through landline, cellular and Internet services, was to be undertaken by the Chinese firm ZTE Corp.

On Sept. 11, acting on a petition filed by floile Vice Gov. Rolex Suplico, the Supreme Court issued a temporary restraining order on the project's implementation.

Amsterdam Holdings Inc. (AHI), owned by Jose "Joey" de-Venecia III, which submitted an unsolicited proposal for the Lawyers and Advocates for Ac- project, had also asked the high

He said there were "matters - tegrity and Good Governance - to provide it a copy of the agreement with China and other relevant documents.

> Joey de Venecia, son and namesake of the Speaker, has accused Commission on Elections Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. of brokering the deal with ZTE in exchange for kick-

He also told the Senate that the President's husband, Jose Miguel Arroyo, had tried to bully him into backing off from pursuing the broadband project.

For free

Latigo said the AHI proposal was better than the government's deal with ZTE:

Respondent ZTE's proposal will cost Filipino taxpayers in the amount of roughly P15,000,000,000, whereas, a similar proposal of an interested proponent, AHI, offered to undertake the project free of charge to the government.

"Under the existing ZTE-DOTC Broadband Deal, the government does not only have to spend for the entire project cost, but also incur a huge debt, in exchange for something it can have for free."

Latigo noted that the deal had been the subject of much controversy, and had also led to President Macapagal-Arroyo's negative trust rating.

It said the issue could be bigger than the "Helio Garci" wiretapping controversy.

It added that the deal with ZTE ran contrary to the Govern-

ZTE execs to discuss loan details only with DOTC in closed-door session

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

OFFICIALS OF CHINA'S ZTE Corp. have refused to make public the details of its \$329million loan contract with the Philippine government to put up a National Broadband Sept. 25, Accra submitted the

Abello Concepcion Regala and Cruz (Accra) law office have told the Senate that they would discuss the details of its supply contract only with the Department of Transportation confidentiality in the inforand Communications in a mation, invoking the interest closed-door executive session.

Discussions during an executive session cannot be revealed to the public.

Sen. Manuel Roxas II, chair of the trade and commerce committee and one of the cochairs of the Senate inquiry into the NBN deal, said ZTE's stance could be a ploy to conceal overpricing in the deal.

Jose 'Joey' de Venecia III, owner of the losing project proponent Amsterdam Holdings Inc. (AHI), has told the Senate inquiry that ZTE's project proposal was overpriced by around \$200 million.

The deal involves a \$329- public," he said.

million loan that the Philippine government would have to pay over a 20-year period.

Confidentiality

In a letter to the Senate blue ribbon committee dated annexes of ZTE's supply con-Its lawyers from the Angara tract with the DOTC, including the bill of materials and the corresponding prices.

> But in the letter signed by senior partner Rogelio Vinluan, Accra demanded strict of the Philippine government, trade secrets and intellectual property rights.

The law firm demanded that the contract details be examined by the Senate committee in an executive session.

'Ano ang kinatatakutan nila (What are they afraid of)?" Roxas told reporters yesterday.

"Why won't they reveal the specifics of their broadband system? I think it's because we'll find out about overpricing. That's why even though they have submitted the details, they put in a restriction that these cannot be [made]

Build-Operate-Transfer and Corrupt Practices Act and Law, the Public Telecommuni- the Civil Code. cations Policy Act, the Foreign from Alcuin Papa and Norman countability, Transparency, In- court to compel the government ment Procurement Reform Act, Borrowings Law, the Anti-Graft Bordadora

Abalos knows too much; 80 new solons may be for impeachment

From page Al

tion would complicate an otherwise simple issue

"It will become complicated only because of what Abalos might and could say and the corresponding collateral damage for the administration," he said.

80 neophyte solons

Administration legislators are in a delicate balancing act as to how to handle the matter, according to Casiño.

A senior administration lawnaker said Abalos could never be sure how his colleagues in the majority would decide the impeachment complaint.

"Many will cross party lines," the administration lawmaker said, asking not to be identified because of the sensitive position he holds.

The lawmaker said the bulk of the endorsement for the impeachment complaint might come from "honest-to-goodness" neophyte congressmen numbering around 80

"For them, the case is simple: There was a positive assertion and a positive witness against Abalos," he said. "My gut feel is that they will move even without the leadership shepherding them."

IDV's promise to God

Under House rules, an impeachment case can be automatically transmitted to the Senate for trial if it is endorsed by at least 80 lawmakers, avoiding possibly

bruising debates in the House. Speaker Jose de Vene-

cia-whose businessman-son Jose "Joey" de Venecia III set the ball rolling against Abalos-said yesterday he would not intervene but would simply carry out his ministerial duty of referring the impeachment complaint to the committee on justice, which will decide if it has ment or not.

"I pity him. He is being hit in the Senate, in the House of Representatives, before the Ombudsman and the Supreme Court," De-Venecia said in an interview.

"I will not intervene. That I promise before God," he said, adding: "I shall be fair... Even more than neutral, I will be fair."

The impeachment case filed by Iloilo Vice Gov. Rolex Suplico accuses Abalos of offering bribes while brokering the \$329-milhon National Broadband Network (NBN) project in favor of China's telecommunications giant ZTE Corp. Malacaftang later suspended the deal.

Suplico cited grounds-bribery, betrayal of public trust, culpable violation of the Constitution and graft and corruption.

Redeeming House image

The administration lawmaker who preferred anonymity said the Abalos case presented the House leadership with an opportunity to rehabilitate its negative public image. An incessant accusation against con-

gressmen was their supposed misuse of the "pork barrel."

"The House is at a crossroads," the lawmaker said. "If we impeach Abalos, the reputation of the House will definitely shoot up. If we don't and there is the public perception that he's guilty, our reputation will further go down the drain."

He said it was very possible that the House leadership would "seize the opportunity."

Monday or Tuesday

Speaker De Venecia said he had cussions on the NBN project. ready told his son to be ready to Locsin said nobody was be invited to the House to testify on his allegations against Abalos.

De Venecia said that as Speaker, he has 10 session days to refer the impeachment complaint to the justice committee. The House has only three session days in a week.

"Ten session days means about four weeks, It means I can sit on it for that long. But I won't do that," he said.

"I will transmit it to the committee on justice on Monday or Tuesday," he added

De Venecia, however, said that he would still consult with the House legal affairs on whether it would be fair for him to do so considering his relation with one of the witnesses against Abalos.

He said another option is for one of the Deputy Speakers to transmit the complaint to the justice committee.

"But I will be the one to tell them to do it," De Venecia said.

Makati Rep. Teodoro Locsin Jr. said the filing of the impeachment case was premature, noting that Abalos could still be summoned in the Senate and more information could still be unraveled.

Only the dumb

Locsin said he was not jumping into any conclusion just yet. During the Senate hearing last

Wednesday, former Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Romulo Neri said he had been offered "200" by Abalos in the course of their dis-

if the offer actually involved money because Neri simply recalled Abalos telling him: "Sec, may 200 ka dito (Secretary, you have 200 here)."

"It's insufficient to convince anybody with half a brain," Locsin told the INCURER. "But if you're dumb, you'll buy it right away."

The Senate inquiry was prompted by previous allegations by Joey de Venecia, whose firm also wanted to comer the NBN project, that Abalos offered him \$10 million to withdraw from the project.

The senior administration lawmaker said the congressional calendar would work in favor of Abalos, who will retire in February next year.

With the impeachment case filed only the other day, he said it still had to be put on the calendar and endorsed in the committee on justice headed by Quezon mitted to having previously

City Rep. Mattas Defensor. The committee, which will

determine if the complaint was sufficient in form and substance, would then have to work on a tight schedule because Congress is set to take a break from Oct. 12 to Nov 5, according to the lawmaker. If the complaint passes the

committee's scrutiny, it would still go through deliberations at the plenary, the lawmaker said. He noted that there would be another congressional break from Dec. 20 to Jan. 20, 2008. To offset the time constrain

proponents of the impeachment complaint should gather at least 80 signatures so it could automatically be transmitted to the Senate, he said.

Abalos digging in

Abalos is digging in, insisting on his innocence and vowing to stay on as the poll body's chief

Asked if he was considering stepping down from his post, Abalos told reporters yesterday he wasn't considering resigning because a resignation "will be tantamount to surrendering and (to) an admission of guilt."

Reiterating he had nothing to do with the ZTE deal, Abalos said he was surprised that the senators took the statements of both Joey de Venecia and Neri as gospel truth.

"My statement was taken against someone who has ad-

used drugs," Abalos added, referring to the younger De Venecia's admission that he had used llegal drugs while a college student in the United States.

Conspiracy

Abalos maintained that the accusations against him were part of a "conspiracy" between the younger De Venecia and Neri to get the NBN project cancelled altogether.

A senior House member close to De Venecia, Parañaque Rep. Eduardo Zialcita, said he was "agonizing" over whether to endorse the impeachment case.

"But there is a strong case," Zialcita said

Davao Rep. Prospero Nograles, who is accompanying President Macapagal-Arroyo on her trip to the United States, said when he left Manila the mood in the House was "50-50" for and against the impeachment of Abalos.

"It can go either way," he told reporters

Malacafiang made it clear it would not interfere in the impeachment proceedings.

We believe that Chairman Abalos can very well defend himself," Presidential Management Staff Chief Cerge Remonde said.

Remonde said it was improper for Ms Arroyo or the executive department to meddle in congressional processes. With reports from Beverly T. Natividad, Christine O. Avendaño and Michael Lim Ubac

NBN deal straining familial ties with GMA, admits Gina de Venecia

From page Al

"It's a very difficult situation for all of us, but the truth will set us free," she said.

No calls from GMA

in the past, Ms Arroyo would ask the Speaker's wife to accompamy her in foreign and local trips.

But after Joey testified in the Senate about the alleged bribery made by Elections Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. and Mike Arroyo's alleged involvement, Gina said the President had not called her up.

"But [the President] and the Speaker spoke to each other," Gina added. She did not elaborate on what Ms Arroyo and the elder De Venecia talked about.

Gina said members of her famiby had also received death threats.

She said she was sad to hear about moves to impeach Abalos because she and Abalos' wife are close friends. "The events are unfolding fast. I hope God and destiny will lead us to where we should go."

Gina said that Joey asked for her advice before he made his revelations at the Senate hearing.

"I told him his testimony would affect the family, how we could be threatened and be subjected to all kinds of black propaganda and that they might even remove his father as Speaker," she said.

Joey, however, told her: "My father raised me to always tell

"And that's exactly what he did," Gina said. "What he said was what really happened. Walang dagdag, walang bawas

(No more, no less)." She quoted Joey as saying that he could no longer stomach what was happening and that he had to tell the truth for the sake of the Filipino people and the next generations.

Fair treatment

Gina admitted that she hadappealed to both administration and opposition senators to "give Joey fair treatment in the same manner that I begged the

congressmen to give the President fair treatment when she was being impeached in 2004."

She told them that "what I need to do is bring out the truth. I am not appealing to anyone to agree with what [Joey] says or to support what he is doing. Just give him fair treatment."

Asked to comment on allegations that her husband was involved in the alleged overpricing of the North Rail project, Gina said she wonders why the issue has come our now when the project has been going on for some time.

"Where did this propaganda come from? The paper [that reported that) is owned by a businessman who is the best friend of Mike Arroyo. The person whom Secretary [Romulo] Neri said was involved in ports services. Let's be vigilant and find out who these persons are and

their motives," she said. Ms De Venecia was apparently referring to Ricky Razon, whom Neri said at the Senate hearing on Wednesday allegedly threat-

should he try to break Razon's monopoly of Manila's ports.

Razon is chair and president of the International Container Terminal Services Inc.

Only with Gina

Mandaluyong Mayor Benhur Abalos, son of the Comelec chair, said his family would keep their friendship only with the Speaker's wife Gina, should the broadband scandal spin out of control.

"When worse comes to worst, our friendship with Manay Gina will remain," the younger Abalos told the inquirer, apparently to avoid discussions on continuing the friendship with the Speaker.

The Mandaluyong mayor said he and his wife had "special ties" with Gina, whom he described as "a special part of our

The friendship was galvanized by a shared experience of having lost a loved one.

Gina and the Speaker lost

ened him with bodily harm their 16-year-old daughter, Maria Kristina Casimira "KC" de Venecia, when fire struck the family residence in Makati in

Shared experience

December 2004.

Four months later, Benhur and his wife lost their 19-year-old daughter, Chuara Marie Abalos, to a serious bacterial infection.

"She was with us almost every day throughout the ordeal," Benhur said of Gina. "She helped my wife recover from the tragedy, that's why we have tremendous love for her."

Speaker's wife, however, was assured of salvation amid the raging scandal over the \$329million NBN deal.

Only the friendship with the

Benhur lamented that the initial accusation came—not from a political enemy—but from within the Speaker's family.

Abalos of brokering for China's ZTE Corp.

the Speaker the benefit of the

One man's word vs the other

"He's saying that he (elder De Venecia) has nothing to do with it," he said. "So let's just say that I'm giving him the benefit of the doubt. But it's his actuations that are more important. It's his body language that I will look at."

The younger Abalos said the Senate inquiry into the NBN controversy should not center on his father, but on "more important" issues like the involvement of the Speaker's son in a government contract.

"It's being done in aid of legisla tion so why don't they address the issue of the children of officials being involved in contracts with the government?" Benhur said.

So far, he said his father's ac cusers had yet to present solid evidence to support allegations Joey had accused the elder of bribery and corruption in connection with the NBN proiect. "It's been one man's word Benhur said he was giving against the other."



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Leyte solon gets 18 years for graft

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By Jocelyn R. Uy

THE SANDIGANBAYAN YESterday convicted reelected Leyte Rep. Eufrocino Codilla Sr. (fourth district) of two counts of graft and sentenced him up to 18 years in prison for approving the business permit of his own company when he was still the mayor of Ormoc City in 1993.

The antigraft court also perpetually disqualified Codilla from holding public office.

However, the court's Fifth Division acquit ted him of two counts of violation of the code of conduct and ethical standards for public officials and employees due to insufficiency of evidence.

Codilia was allowed to post a P60,000 bail bond for his temporary liberty. The court gave him 15 days to decide whether he would file an appeal with the antigraft court or with the Supreme Court.

Court records showed that Codilla, who figured in illegal logging and possession of hot lumber cases more than 10 years ago, approved for two consecutive years the application for sand and gravel permits of Codilla Enterprises, of which he was the

registered proprietor

Citing conflict of interest, the prosecution argued that Codilla must be held liable for graft as he had pecuniary interest in the business contract with the city government.

In his defense, Codilla alieged that before he approved the permits, the city's business permit and licensing office had made a query with the city legal officer about the propriety of approving a permit for his own business.

The legal officer supposedly found no reason why he could not issue permits for his firm which had been established long before he became the city mayor.

Codilla told the court that his approval of the sand and gravel permits was "merely ministerial" on his part and that he had caused no undue injury by doing so.

"From the undisputed facts, it is evident that the accused intervened or took part in his official capacity in connection with his pecuniary interest in any business, contract, or transaction, by the approval of the permit for his sand and gravel business ...," the 30-page decision read.

The court further ruled that even the subsequent appointment of his son, Eric Godula, as manager did not take away from him such interest in the business.

"He should have been more prudent and should have kept in mind that at all times, as a public officer, his actions must be beyond reproach," said the court.

Joey Marquez appeals

By Jocelyn R. Uy

CONVICTED FORMER PARAÑAQUE MAYor Joey Marquez just won't give up the fight.

The former city official has again appealed before the Sandiganbayan to reopen the proceedings of the recently promulgated graft cases in connection to his purchase of overpriced walls tingting (brooms) in 1996 and 1997

Through his counsel, Noel Malaya, Marquez said that to avoid miscarriage of justice, he must be allowed to present evidence showing that his signatures in the documents—disbursement vouchers and purchase orders—that pinned him down were forged.

Last month, the Fourth Division found Marquez and three other city officials guilty of five counts of graft and were sentenced to six to 10 years in juil for each count.

They were also ordered to pay P462,708 representing the overpriced amount in the procurement of 55,432 brooms, which the

Commission on Audit found out to be bought at either P15 or P25 each.

Also, the comedian and former basketball professional has eight pending graft cases in the Second Division involving more than 8,000 broomsticks worth over P120,000, which were allegedly procured without public bidding in March 1997

During the trial of the five cases, the comedian did not present proof that his signatures were forged because he "honestly bebeved all along that the prosecution has offered weak evidence against him," said Malaya

In the same breath, Marquez also asked Fourth Division chairman Justice Gregory Ong to voluntarily inhibit himself from further handling the cases because he had supposedly lost the required "cold neutrality of an impartial judge."

In a five-page motion, Marquez cited conflict of interest as Ong's wife, Nancy supposedly has a financial interest as creditor of his wife, Vanessa, better known in the movies as Alma Moreno





PASSING THROUGH

A trolley full of passengers travels past demolished houses along a portion of Sta. Mesa, -Manila, site of the North and South Rail Linkage Project which aims to rehabilitate the Jold national railway system.

Editor Ester G. Dipasupil Text us your feedback: inquirer met name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Obstruction of justice charge awaits doctor

By Tina G. Santos

THE DOCTOR WHO BROUGHT ALleged hazing victim Gris Anthony Mendez to the Veterans Memorial Medical Center will be charged with obstruction of justice.

The charge stems from his alleged refusal to heed a summons of the National Bureau of Investigation to shed light on the case.

Lawyer Romulo Asis, head of the NBI Anti Terrorism Division which is handling the case, said charges would be filed against Dr. Francisco Cruz in the Department of Justice next week.

Cruz, an ophthalmologist at the VMMC, was still a no-show at the NBI yesterday despite the "ultimatum" given to him by the bureau.

Asis said they had to file the charges against Cruz after the doctor ignored the bureau's "third and final" subpoens

Apart from bringing the 20-yearold graduating college student to the VMMC in Quezon City on Aug 27, Asis said it was also Cruz who approved the release of Mendez's body to the St. Peter funeral parlor "He's a medical doctor. He should have known that in medico-legal cases like this, the police should have been notified," Asis said

Asis said they were also considering filing a case against Cruz with the Professional Regulation Commission.

Meanwhile, another witness went to the NBI yesterday and confirmed that it was Cruz who gave the go-signal for the release of Mendez's body from the government hospital.

The witness, an employee at the VMMC, claimed he was among the signatories in Mendez's release papers.

UP files raps vs 12 Sigma Rhoans

If found guilty, students could face suspension or expulsion for misconduct, says legal office

By Jeannette I. Andrade

THE UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES DILIMAN LEGAL OFFICE (UP-DLO) has filed administrative charges in the Student Disciplinary Tribunal (SDT) against 12 officers and members of the Sigma Rho fraternity for misconduct in the form of hazing and lack of respect for university rules governing students.

The charges stemmed from the death of senior public administration student Cris Anthony Mendez, allegedly a hazing victim and a recruit of the campus organization.

The charges were filed amid rumors that another fraternity neophyte died while being treated at an undisclosed hospital after sustaining traumatic injuries in the upper and lower extremities like Mendez.

UP vice chancellor for Student Affairs Elizabeth Enriquez said that if the students are found guilty, they would face penalties ranging from suspension to expulsion depending on the gravity of the offense.

Enriquez said at least two more students could be included in the charges.

Confidential

She added that documents relating to the charges were confidential and university rules prevented her from disclosing these, particularly the names of the students involved

"The documents are out of my hands and it is up to the SDT to assess the case," she said, adding that the UP administration expected the tribunal to decide on the complaints quickly.

The three-person SDT, composed mostly of faculty members, will be chaired by awyer Jonathan Sale. Two more members, a parent and a student, may be added "de-

pending on the case."

Enriquez said that with the 30-day preventive suspension against officers of the Sigma Rho fraternity about to end, it was up to the SDT to decide if the suspension would be extended.

"After the preventive suspension, the students will be allowed to attend their classes," the vice chancellor said.

Rumors

Enriquez said rumors about another alleged hazing case spread through text messages among students since Monday. Her office was still trying to verify the information. "If that is true, we also want to find out so we can take appropriate steps," she said.

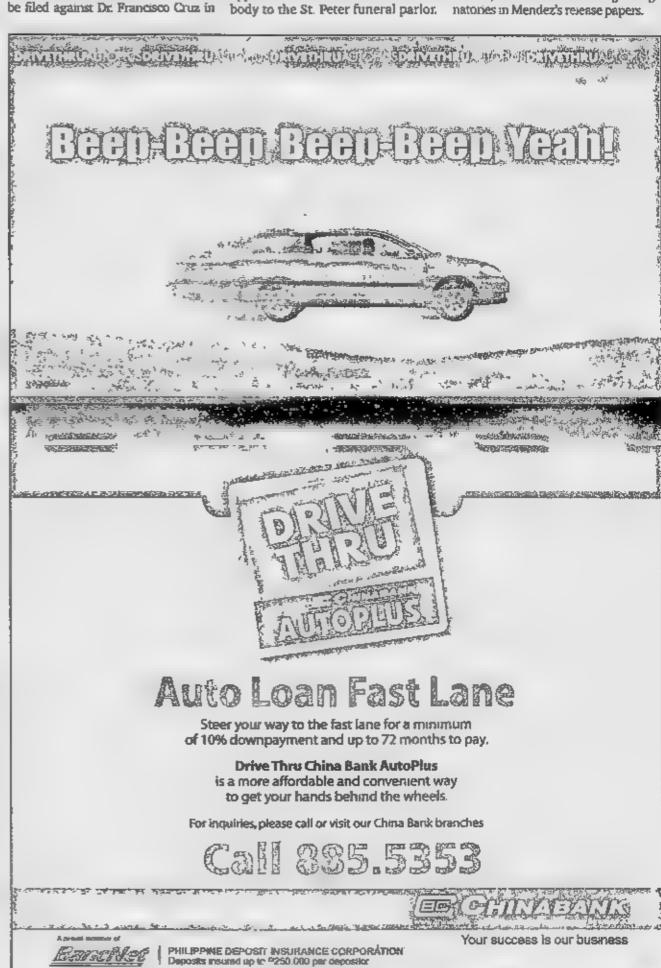
But she said the information could be a "red herring" and might be an attempt to confuse and muddle the ongoing administrative proceedings and police investigations on Mendez' suspected hazing death.

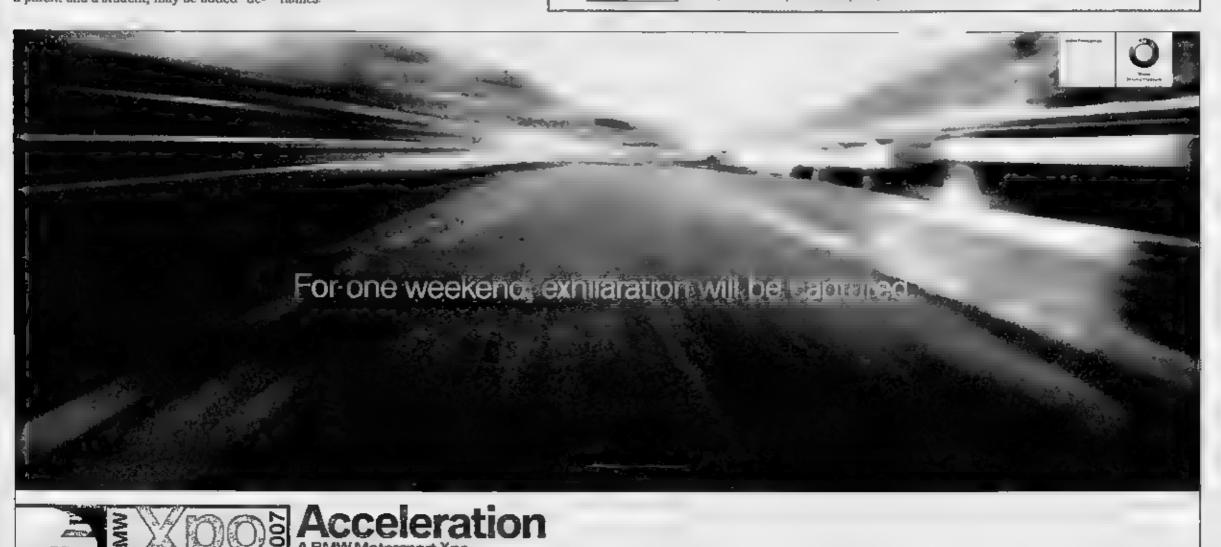
It was learned that at least three "probable" names, purportedly of the latest neophyte to die from hazing, had been mentioned in certain student circles in UR

Two names were dismissed as false, while the third was still being verified by the university registrar's office.

The college where he was supposed to belong denied they had a student by those

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METRO

NBI to probe doctors' involvement in organ trade

METROBRIEFS

Former Atienza consultant killed

A MAN was shot dead in front of a Quezon City bank before noon yesterday by two unidentified gunmen Carlos Castro Jardenii, was report edly a consultant of former Manila mayor Lito Atlenza, was shot twice in the chest and once in the stomach. In front of the Union Bank along Edsa near the Muñoz market. Jardenik, a resident of Navotas City, was a senior citizens affairs consultant from January to June 2006. The victim was brought to the Quezon City General Hospita, where he was pronounced dead on arrival. Witnesses told police that two men on a motorcycle drove past Jardenii as he stood in front of a bank, and began firing. Robbery was ruled out as poice found P10 000 in Jardenil's wat-Kenneth M. del Rosario

Water cutoff in Manila

SOME areas in Binondo, Manifa will have no water for eight hours starting at 10 tonight entl. 6 a.m. on Sunday. The service interruption is due to the interconnection of a service pipe to the existing line at Sevilla corner Jaboneros. Wateriess areas are those bounded by C.M. Recto, Estero de Binondo Muene de Binondo Muelle dei Banco, Nacional and Barceiona, Ca. Maynilad Water Hotline 1626/436-2000, or text Mayn -

By Tina G. Santos

THE NATIONAL BUREAU OF Investigation is looking into the possible involvement of doctors and other medical personnel of top hospitals in the illegal sale of human organs.

Early this week, two alleged members of a syndicate were arrested for duping several peopie into selling their kidneys.

Without naming the hospitals, Ruel Lasala, NBI deputy director for intelligence service, said they were now conducting a further investigation to determine if doctors were involved in the anomaly.

Last Tuesday, agents of the NBI Field Operations Service led by Roland Argabioso rescued at least 11 potential kidney donors following the arrest of Ryan Agumaldo, 26 and Jose Plandez, 35, both of San Juan, Barangas.

The suspects, who allegedly acted as "middlemen," were charged with violation of Republic Act 9208 (Anti-Trafficking of Persons Act of 2003) before the Department of Justice No bail was recommended for their temporary release.

The bureau is now looking for the suspects' other alleged associates identified as Rico, Rachel, Gary and Sheryl, all surnamed Jusay and residents of Barangay Ticalan, San Juan.

"The law prohibits one to recruit, hire, adopt, transport, or abduct a person by means of a

threat or use of force, fraud, deceit, violence, coercion or intimidation for the purpose or removal or sale of organ of a person," said the agency

Most of the recruits were men, about 20-28 years old, from Batangas, Quezon and other neighboring provinces. Organ recipients were mainly from the Middle East, the NBI said. "At least 50 persons from the provinces have been victims of the syndicate," Lasala added.

The suspects convinced victims to seil their kidneys for hage sums of money, with promises of free meals, lodging and medicines after the operation, the NBI said

A safehouse was provided for kidney donors who had to undergo cross-matching tests with potential recipients. Two victims said they were promised P300,000-400,000. When they received only P100,000, they decided to go to the NBI for he.p.

Neri trying to protect other people at Abalos' expense

ROMULO NERI'S ALLEGAtion that Commission on Elections Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. tried to bribe him in the \$329milion deal with China's ZTE Corp. was indeed a bombshell.

But if the former duef of the National Economic and Development Authority (Neda) stops at Abalos, his testimony in the Senate probe will come to naught.

It's very clear Nen was trying to protect other people at the expense of Abalos last Wednesday.

Yes, Abalos, going by the testimony of Nen and businessman Jose "Joey" de Venecia III, was a big player in the National Broadband Network (NBN) scandal.

Surely, there are many more participants in the scandal than the Neda chief would care to

name. For instance, had President Gloria realized that the deal offered by De Venecia's Amsterdam Holdings Inc. (AHI) was better than that of ZTE's, there would have been no scandal. And no Senate investigation.

The AHI's offer to install a national broadband network in the country was on a build, operate and transfer (BOT) basis. This would mean the government would not have spent money on the worthwhile project.

The question boils down to who among the President's men or relatives influenced her to choose ZTE over AHL

Let's hope Neri gave more names during the executive session that came about when he invoked executive privilege when

Tulfo senators asked him whether or not the President was involved.

TARGET

Ramon

A source close to Neri alleged that the President forced the then Neda chief to approve the ZTE contract.

Because Neri approved the contract with a heavy heart, he tried to resign, but the President prevailed upon hun and transferred him to the Commission on Higher Education (CHEd), the source said.

So, by all means, let's crucify

Abalos for being caught with his hand in the ZTE cookie jar.

But let's not stop at Abalos because you and I know he's not the only one involved in the ZTE

Why don't we also look in the direction of the President's husband, Mike Arroyo, who allegedly told the young De Venecia to

back off from the deal? And what about businessman Ricky Razon, a family friend of the Arroyos, whose name was mentioned during the Senate hearing Wednesday?

It was unfair of Sen. Aquilino Pimentel to drag an innocent woman in the Senate investigation when the issue concerned Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos' alleged involvement in the NBN scandal.

So what if the woman is Abalos' gtrl friend, mistress, or whatever?

Why must her name be brought out in the investigation when she has nothing to do with the controversy?

Okay, Pimentel is faithful to his wife. He's one of a kind. Can that be said of some of his colleagues in the Senate?

When the issue of morality comes up, only a few male government officials can stand up to scrutiny.

Pimentel should have followed Jesus' admonition when His countrymen were stoning a prostitute. He who is without sin should east the first stone.

Building inspection to be conducted in Las Piñas City, Manila

By Julie M. Aurelio and Allison W. Lopez

INSPECTION TEAMS LED BY city officials will resume their visits to factories and businessestablishments in Las Piñas this week after portions of a garment factory collapsed in July.

Christian Chan of the city engineer's office said they had already Marcos Alvarez Avenue, Talon Uno.

In Manila, the city's Building Office also called on owners of dilapidated buildings to rehabilitate or demolish structures that could be potential hazards to residents.

The advice was issued after the facade of an abandoned building owned by Philtrust bank on Cervantes Streets in Bi-

checked over 20 factories along sondo crumbled the other day damaging eight vehicles.

Chan said their inspection was halted by the rains. "We will resume the check-up as ordered by the mayor."

The directive to inspect thoroughly the structures came after the mezzanine of Formostar, a garments factory in Las Piñas. partially collapsed in July, injur-

The collapsed portion was not included in the original construction plan of the two-story building.

Las Piñas Mayor Vergel Aguilar reminded owners of over 6,000 business establishments to follow building standards and comply with requirements to avoid the revocation of

Chan said they also inspected along Marcos Alvarez Ave., checking the soundness of the structures and the original building plans.

Engineer Melvin Balagot, Manda building chief, said they had already sent notices to

abandoned building since it was their responsibility to check the Colegio de Sta. Monica if their properties were stall structurally sound.

"We have a lot of old structures in Intramuros, Sampaloc, Tondo and Pandacan," he said A partial list showed 89 "dilapidated" buildings in the city. But Balagor stressed that not all old owners of dilapidated and buildings were "condemned"





Government Warning:
Cigarette smoking is dangerous
to your health

The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Pope's death drawn into euthanasia row

ROME--THE DEBATE OVER THE VATICAN'S opposition to euthanasia is being played out here over an especially public and delicate case: The death of Pope John Paul II.

Over the past week, the Vatican and Lina Pavanelii, an Italian anesthesiologist, have sparred over the doctor's accusation that John Paul should have been fitted earlier with a feeding tube.

Pavanelli, charged Wednesday that John Paul II violated Catholic teaching against euthanasia by refusing medical care that would have kept him alive longer-a charge immediately dismissed by Vatican officials

In an article in the Italian journal Micromega, Pavanelli questioned why John Paul was only outfitted with a nasal feeding tube on March 30, 2005, three days before he died. She said he clearly was in need of artificial nutrition well before then.

John Paul was rushed to Rome's Gemelli Polyclinic Hospital two times in February of 2005 with breathing crises relat ed to his Parkinson's disease; he was released for the last time March 13 He died in his Vatican

the Vatican said was septic shock and cardiocirculatory collapse.

The Vatican announced March 30 that John Paul had been outfitted with a nasal feeding straw to improve his nutrition so he could recover strength.

However, Vatican officials said Wednesday that the tube had been inserted well before March 30 but that the procedure was only announced on that date. They disclosed the information in response to Pavanelli's charges, which they said weren't serious because she had no access to the Pontiff's medical records and based her accusations only on press releases and news reports.

Wednesday, Pavanelli acknowledged she didn't have access to the Pontiff's medical records and acknowledged the likelihood that he may have been outfitted sooner than March 30 with a nasal feeding tube.

adequate nutrition soon enough, saying he actually should have been given a stomach feeding tube since he needed longer term artificial nutrition. She says she assumes John Paul's doctors offered him that option, but that he must have refused the treatment since he wasn't given it.

Catholic teaching holds that it is morally wrong to refuse "proportionate" or ordinary care, which includes water and feeding tubes; refusing such care amounts to euthanasia.

"He was fed neither at the right time, nor in the right way for the correct amount of time," Pavanelli said. That created a situation in which the Pope was too weak to fend off the urinary tract infection that led to the septic shock that ultimately killed him, she charged.

In the article, Pavanelli concludes that "when the patient At a press conference knowingly refuses a lifesaving therapy, his action together with the remissive or ommissive behavior of doctors, must be considered euthanasia, or more precisely, assisted suicide."

The Vatican recently repeated its position on euthanasia and But she maintained her core feeding tubes. A document isapartment on April 2, from what argument that he was not given sued Sept. 14 from the Vatican's connected his respirator. NYT, AP

Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith reaffirmed that it considers the removal of feeding tubes from people in vegetative states to be an immoral act.

The Vatican distinguishes between feeding tubes, which it considers proportionate care, and aggressive medical treatment which can be disproportionate to any expected results or pose an excessive burden on the patient.

"In such situations, when death is clearly imminent and inevitable, one can in conscience refuse forms of treatment that would only secure a precarious and burdensome prolongation of life, so long as the normal care due to the sick person in similar cases is not interrupted," according to John Paul's 1995 encycl. cal "Evangelium Vitae."

Pavanelli appeared at a press conference Wednesday to defend her ciaims alongside the widow of Piergiorgio Welby, who has been at the center of a right-todie campaign in this predominantly Roman Catholic country.

Welby, a paralyzed writer who suffered from muscular dystro-'phy, died in December after a doctor carried out his wish and dis-



Peace Day on Jan. 1, 2004 at the Vatican.

POPE John Paul () during the celebration of a Mass marking World

US redesigns citizenship questions for immigrants

PATRICK HENRY AND FRANCIS groups said the test was too leaving aside the situation of Scott Key are out, but Susan B. Anthony and Nancy Pelosi are in. The White House was cut, but New York and Sept. 11 made the list

Federal immigration author ities on Thursday unveiled 100 new questions that immigrants will have to study in order to pass a civics test to become naturalized American citizens The redesign of the test, the first since it was created in 1986 as a standardized examination, follows years of criticism in which conservative

easy and immigrant advocates said it was too hard

The new questions did little to queli that debate among many immigrant groups, who complained the citizenship test would become even more daunting. Conservatives seemed to be more sansfied.

Bush administration officials said the new test was part of their effort to move forward on the horly disputed issue of immigration by focusing on the assimilation of legal immigrants me liberty or give me death," or who have played by the rules,

some 12 million illegal immigrants here.

Several historians said the new questions successfully incorporated more ideas about the workings of American democracy and better touched upon the diversity of the women, groups—including American Indians and African Americans-who have influenced the country's history.

Would be citizens no longer have to know who said, "Give who wrote "The Star-Spangled

Banner." But they do have to know, "What did Susan B. Anthony do?" and who the current Speaker of the House of Representatives is.

Immigration officials said they sought to move away from civies trivia to emphasize basic concepts about the structure of government and American history and geography. In contrast to the old test, which some immigrants could pass without any study, the officials said the new one is intended to force even highly educated applicants to do some reviewing.

The \$6.5-million redesign was crafted over six years of discussions with historians, immigrant organizations and liberal and conservative research groups. The questions were submitted to four months of pi lot testing earlier this year with more than 6,000 immigrants who were applying for natural-

The agency will begin to use the revised test on Oct. 1, 2008, to leave a year for aspiring citizens to prepare and for community groups to adjust their study classes.

WORLDBRIEFS

US insists it is serious about warming

WASHINGTON-The United States insisted on Thursday it was serious about global warming and tried to reassure skeptics that President George W. Bush's gathering of major poluting nations would not undermine UN efforts. But some part.cipants and environmentalists were unconvinced, voicing concern that Washington was trying to raily support for voluntary emissions cuts rather than the mandatory reductions called for in the 1997 Kyoto Protoco: "I want to stress that the United States takes a mate change very seriously, for we are both a major economy and a major emitter," US Secretary of State Condoteezza Rice said at the start of the two-day conference "Climate change is a global problem and we are contributing to it," Rice said. "Therefore, we are prepared to expand our leadership to address the challenge "

Red Cross workers held in Afghanistan

GHAZN , Afghanistan-Negotyators were in touch Friday with the captors of four Red Cross workers, two of them foreigners, who were held in Afghanistan during a mission to free a German kidnapped by the Tailban. Contact had been made with the group that seized the men on Wednesday in the province of Wardak, about 50 km from Kabul, and military action had been ruled out to free the men, an Afghan official said. "The Red Cross office advised us not to use any military action for the safety of the iodnapped people and the issue must be solved via mediation through tribal elders," said the governor of Sayed Abad district where they were taken.

Serb in Vukoyar massacre gets 20 years

THE RAGUE-The JN war crimes court on Thursday convicted former Serb commander Mile Mrksic and sentenced him to 20 years in prison for his role in the 1991 Vukovar massacre of 194 Croats. Mrskic's subordinate officer Vese in Slijivancanin was sentenced to five years in prison for aiding and abeiting torture, while a third accused, M roslav Radic. was acquitted in the absence of evidence that he was aware of the killings. After the capture of Vukovar by the Serb-dominated Yugoslav Army thousands of Croats and other non-Serbs took refuge in the Vukovar hospital in the hope of being evacuated in the presence of international observers. On Nov. 20, 1991, Yugoslav forces evacuated the hospital and forced some 400 Croats and other non-Serbs out. Sordiers then bussed around 250 evacuees to a secluded farm a few kilometers away where at least 194 identified persons where beaten, killed and buried in mass graves

Bush seeks steps to curb airline delays

WASHINGTON-After the worst summer of airline delays on record, President Bush on Thursday ordered transportation officials to work with airline executives to reduce delays in the nation's overcrowded airspaces, beginning in New York. White House officials said they were considering options like capping the number of flights and allowing airports to charge higher fees to airlines for landing at the busiest times of the day.

WB pledges record \$3.5B for poorest nations

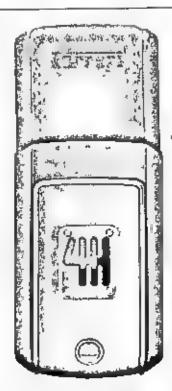
WASHINGTON-THE WORLD Bank on Thursday pledged a record \$3.5 billion to aid the world's poorest countries as it cut the interest rate on loans to big developing countries.

The roughly quarter-point lowering of loan rates was a concession by the World Bank as it stepped up efforts to get some of its bigger borrowers such as China and Brazil to contribute themselves to poverty-fighting programs around the world.

The compromise marks a major coup for the new president of the troubled bank, Robert Zoellick, a former US trade chief who took office in July after the ouster of Paul Wolfowitz over a favoritism scanda...

Known as a sharp negotiator. Zoethek, who left the Wail Street investment bank Go.d man Sachs to join the World Bank, apparently managed to quickly strike a win win deal to find more money for poor countries and ease borrowing for middle-income clients

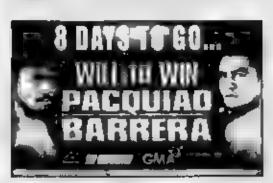
The bank said Thursday it was seeking to contribute more than double the \$1.5 billion it had pledged two years ago to the International Development Association, its arm which provides interest-free loans and grants to the poorest countries.



YOURS FOR \$25,000 The new Vertu Ascent

Ferrari 60 phone Nolds has started selling for about 18,000 euros (\$25,400) at its stores in London, Paris, Hong Kong and Singapore.







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Laylo rips GM, boosts title drive

Antonio also rises with 10th-round win over Indian grandmaster

Standings after 10 rounds: 7.5 points—Zhang P (China); 7.0—D. Laylo (RP). Wang H. (China) Z. Jun (China), W. Yang (China), 6.5—R. Antonio H. (China) Z. Jun (Ghina), W. Yang (China), 6.5—R. Amonlo (RP), Ni H. (China), Zhou J. (China), U.C. (China), A. Hippov (Jabekistan), G. Gopal (India). S. Megaranto (Indonesia)*, 6.0—L.Q. Llam (Vietnam), E. Hossain (Bangladesh), A. Kunta (India)*, 5.5—M. Paragua (RP), W. So (RP), S. Yap (RP), C. Sandipan (India), D. Neelotpal (India), P. Girinath (India). 5.0—Q. Dimakiling (RP), U. Adianto (Indonesia), N. Parimarjan (India), A. Kim Korea), H. Toufighi (Iran), 4.5—E. Torre*, R. Bancod (RP). Wang R. (China)*, A. Baghari (Iran), D.D. Trong (Vietnam), Shen Y (China), T.H. Thong (Vietnam), Zhou W. (China)

By Roy Luarca

MANDAUE CITY—WHEN DARwin Laylo gains momentum, it's difficult to slow him down.

Having secured his grandmaster title, Laylo played with renewed passion Friday night and toppled Vietnamese GM Le Quang Liem to boost his title drive in the Sixth Asian Individual Chess Championship here.

Handling black expertly, Laylo was a pawn up and enjoying superior position when Le, a six-time Southeast Asian Games gold medalist, resigned after 42 moves of a Scandinavian Defense in the 10th round at the Cebu International Convention Center

His sixth victory—and third against a GM lifted Laylo to 7.0 points, just half a point behind pacesetter GM Zhang Pengoang of China, who drew with countryman GM Ni Hua.

Grandmaster Rogelio "Joey" Antonio also boosted lus campaign by trouncing Indian GM Das Neelotpal in 40 moves of a Sicilian Defense to catch up with Ni, Chinese GM Zhou Jianchao and Uzbekistan IM Anton Filippov at

Zhou drew with compatriot GM Wang Hao, who shared second place with Laylo and Clunese GM Zhao Jun, who split the point with

Still locked in a tight battle at pressume were Indonesian GM Susanto Megaranto (6.5 pts) and Indian GM Abhijit Kunte (6.0).

The top 10 players after 11 rounds of the \$40,000 tournament will represent the region in the Chess World Cup slated in Khanty-Manstyk, Russia, in November.

RP tandem gains share of 3rd spot

KUALA LUMPUR-THE FORMIDABLE That pairing of Thongchai Jaidee and Prayad Marksaeng shot a two-under-par 70 in the foursomes to take a one stroke lead halfway through the Fortis International Challenge on Friday.

But the Filipino tandem of Gerald Rosales and Tony Lascuña kept in touch with the leaders, firing a 68 to share third with the New Zealand and Netherlands pairs at 133, just a shot behind second-running South Korea and two off the Thais.

Thongchai and Prayad produced three birdies at Kota Permai Golf and Country Club for a 13-under par 131 aggregate in the qualifier for the Omega Mission Hills World Cup in China in November.

Koreans Lee Sung and Lee Seung-ho fired a sparkling 67 for second place go-

ing into today's fourbail play. Rosales and Lascuna are bunched with Kiwis Richard Lee and Stephen Scahill (67) and Dutchmen Robert-Jan Derksen and Maarten Lafeber (69).

The top-five reams in the tournament will qualify for the World Cup.

Rosales was full of praise for partner Lascuña, who peppered the pins with some delightful iron play as they recled in five birdles to put the Philippenes firmly in the hunt for a World Cup appearance.

"Tony is a good fron player and all I had to do was to hit the fairway and he would do the rest," said Rosales. "Shooting a 68 today has made it easier for us."

Rosales holed big par putts on the first and 10th holes. Lascuña, who has posted two top-three finishes on the Asian Tour in the past month, holed a 20-foot birdie on the second and then set up another

birdie with a crisp approach on the sixth. The Filipinos birdied the par five seventh and 12th easily before Lascuña nearly chipped in for eagle at the par-5 last.

The scores: 131—Tradand 61-70; 132—8. Koren 65-67; 133—Philippines 65-68. New Zealand 66-67, Netherlands 54-69; 135—Chinesa Taipei 65-70; 136—Myanmar 68-68. Malaysia 51-75, 138—Singapore 66-72, 149—Hong Kong 66-74, 141—Swizerland 67-74, 142—Pakistan 66-76; 144—Slovenia 58-76; 147—Charis 70-77; 148—Mauntus 59-79: 150—Russia 68-82: 151—Liganda 71-80

"Ginanahan ako (I'm highly motivated)," said Laylo, who bared that the lessons given him by IM Rodolfo Tan Cardoso helped him a lot. "I'll just play it safe tomorrow."

Two other Filipino bets, GM Mark Paragua and teen sensation IM Wesley So also gained ground at 5.5 points.

Paragua bested Vietnamese Fide Master GM Amir Bagheri's draw offer to land at 4.5 Dirth Duc Trong while So downed Chinese WGM Shen Yang, the lone female entry, in 33 moves of a Bishop's Opening.

GM Eugene Torre is also trying to extract the full point against Chinese IM Wang Rui.

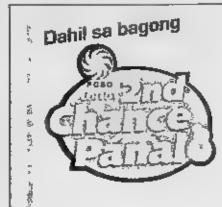
Filipino IM Ronald Bancod accepted Iranian Prospero "Butch" Pichay.

points, the same total of Bagheri.

Meanwhile, Fide rating administrator Casto "Toti" Abundo bared that rising Cebuano star Kim Steven Yap has gained an IM result in the tournament organized by the NCFP headed by



LAYLO



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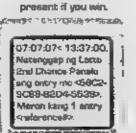
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Green Archers still gung-ho despite stunning defeat

By Jasmine W. Payo

THEY SURPRISINGLY CLEARED THEIR dugout early.

grieve for long after falling a basket short of barging to the UAAP basket-

"Mistakes are painful, but you turn mistakes into experience," said La Salle coach Franz Pumaren.

Apparently, there's still no messing up the Archers' determination even after a heartbreaking one-point loss to ri-

val Ateneo, 65-64, in the stepladder semifinals last Thursday.

The crucial setback forged a do-ordie showdown between the blood ri-The La Salle Green Archers didn't vals tomorrow, giving the Archers little left the dugout early and 1 think it time to lick their wounds

> And as the Archers try to figure out what went wrong, Pumaren sees no need to rebuild their faith in claiming the right to play the University of the East Warriors in a best-of-three championship series.

"What we lost was our (twice-tobeat) privilege," said Pumaren. "We GAME SUNDAY (Araneta Collseum) 3 p.m.--Ateneo vs La Salie

showed that we're still confident, I think we're capable of bouncing back and redeeming ourselves."

Still, the Archers took note of their shortcomings, including how the Bagles clobbered them in the rebounding battle, 41-29

"It showed the lack of depth of our team, our shallow rotation especially

with (rookie center) Brian Ilad not playing (due to a suspension)," said Pumaren, "But that's not an excuse. As a coach, it's our job to utilize the matemais that we have."

Even more crucial, the Archers need to check on the missed offensive opportunities and defensive lapses in the final two minutes where they threw away a six-point buffer.

Veteran guard Chris Tiu delivered the dagger shots in a 7-0 comeback that saved the Eagles' season by the slimmest possible margin.

But Pumaren expects more than just a review of their gameplan shp-ups. An attitude overhaul remains in top order in the Archers' fifth meeting with the gritty Eagles this season.

"The players tend to be complacent," the 44-year-old mentor said, "In our last 16 games, there's not a single game that everyone played well. Every game, only two or three played well, We're waiting for us to play what we're really capable of And hopefully it will be next game. We're still confident We're looking forward to Sunday."

Prudent Pacman hides 'bomb' on media day

By Recah Trinidad

LOS ANGELES-MANNY PACQUIAO, LACKING IN GOOD DEFENSE DURing a previous session, poured it on yesterday against a couple of Mexican sparmates to get a rave response from a fullhouse gym crowd dominated by people from the media.

There was the flash of power, precision and speed that earned applause after the first three torrid rounds against Daniet Cervantes.

The trowd witnessed some of the finest moves from the RP boxing hero, popularly dubbed as the most exciting boxer in the world today, in his most impressive workout since arriving here Sat-

But, without meaning to trick or deceive, Pacquiao did not unwrap the killer punch which he worked to perfection on Monday during a detailed, non-stop work with the punch mitts.

"Manny today? He was just playing out there," trainer Freddie Roach said.

It hardly looked that way because Pacquiao was actually quite businesslike in the first three rounds, and turned a bit cozy only when he next faced David Rodela, who was already with him in the Cebu training camp.

Pacquiao had the luxury of doing the All shuffle in the closing portion of the sixround drill when he would opt to drop his guard and openly pull his punches.

The truth is that Pacquiao had been given strict orders not to bring out a very special shot, which could be likened to a mini-bomb with its jolting sharpness and impact, during yesterday's media day at the Wild Card gym.

"Hindı talaga pınagamıt (He was not allowed to use it)," explained one trusted Team Pacquian staffer who requested anonymity

The order supposedly came from Roach himself. The reason cited was the presence of more than enough Mexicans

Practically everybody close to the ring had something in hand to record the action. But, before the session could start, security officer Rob Peterson barked out an order. No videos, no flashbulbs.

Pacquiao did not disappoint the media men as he readily banged it up with Cervantes, who owns a neat 10-0 record

Cervantes would have some great moments in the first diree minutes as he caught Pacquiao with a few uppercuts and tanded neat shots to the head.



MANNY Pacquiao works his leg muscles before sparring.

different story when Pacquiao decided any fighter not wearing the thick head to pour it on starting in the second round. He feinted with a right, then burried a left straight to the midsection that stalled Gervantes at midring.

It would, however, be an altogether of big punches that could have decked

leather gear.

The bell rang and the crowd roared. Little did they know that Pacquiao had ludden the "bomb" which he plans Pacquiao pressed harder and closed to explode to cover all possible Marco he second round with a blazing display Antonio Barrera escape routes in Las Ve-



KATHLEEN Alora shows the bronze medal she won in the Doha Asiad.

OLYMPIC QUALIFIER

Alora kicks off RP jins' campaign

By Marc Anthony Reyes

MANCHESTER. ENGLAND-THE Spaniard world champion is in her bracket, but Kathleen Euroce Alora is taking it one match at a time.

Alora, 19, tries to draw first blood for the Philippine tackwondo team in the World Championships here when she fights an opponent from Sweden Friday in the women's 49kg division of the Olympics next year.

Hanna Zajc will be the first assignment for the reigning Southeast Asian Games champion and Asian Games bronze medal winner. If she wins, her next rival will be Pakistan's Hran Bang.

Yague of Spain in the crucial stages.

National coach Roberto "Kitoy" Cruz, a former Olympian and six-time SEAG champion and three-time World Championships bronze wirmer said he expected the draw to be tough since all the crack fighters are entered in the meet

Alora, a La Salle business studies senior, tipped the scale well within the lamit Thursday afternoon after the drawing event serving as a gateway to the Beijing of lots at the Midland Hotel, the oldest and grandest hotel in this city.

There are 40 competitors in Alora's division, which means she has to win at least four matches to get to the medal round and, hopefully, a ticket to Beijing.

Doha Asian Games champs and If she keeps on winning, Alora is sure Athens Olympics veterans Thsomlee Go

to meet two-time World champion Brigit and Mary Antoinette Rivero, and 2006 Asian Championships silver medalist Alexander Briones also caught a glimpse of the opposition in their own brackets.

> The 26-year-old Go, the SEAG titlist, will start his quest on Saturday against Akram Ahmed Ahmed Abdul of Yemen in the first round of the men's 58kg class.

Also seeing action on Saturday is Rivero, who has Ivona Banc of Bosnia and Herzegovina as her first assignment in the women's -67kg.

The 19-year-old Rivero, the 2001 US Open champion and 2003 SEAG gold medaust at age 15, is in a 28-player

Briones will face a Central African foe

Sunday in the men's -80kg division, which has drawn a total of 42 fighters.

Milo race goes to CdO

in Cagayan de Oro City tomorrow.

The City of Golden Friendship will host about 10,000 runners in the 21K qualifying race, 5K fun run and 3K kiddle event

Cash prizes amounting to P159,000 will be given out as well as trophies and medals to the top 10 finishers.

The top three 21K firmshers in the men's and women's divisions likewise - races start for check-in and briefing.

THE 31ST NATIONAL MILO MARA- get tickets to the 42K national finals thon begins its Northern Mindanao run slated Nov. 18 in Manila. A cash purse when it stages the 18th qualifying run of P75,000 awaits the men's and women's winners in the Milo Marathon finals.

> After the Cagayan de Oro leg, the series goes to Iligan City on Oct. 7 before capping the Northern Mindanao leg in Butuan on Oct. 14.

Milo AVP for Sports Pat Goc-ong is advising all runners to be at the starting area at least one hour before the



LADIES RULE: The winners of yesterday's Senior Masters event of the 11th Sletha Open pose with their trophies at the Sta, Lucia East Grand Mall Bowling Center in Cainta. From left, second placer Lina Almajose of Sletba, champion Nelia Santos of the Pasig Bowling Association and third placer Fred Martinex, also of Sletba. The event ends tomorrow.

Beermen, Phone Pals favorites, says PBA board

By Musong R. Castillo

MACAU-THE PHILIPPINE BASKETball Association board of governors ended their preseason meeting in this gambling haven satisfied at having ticked off most of the items on their todo list and excited enough to start ratmg the teams before the start of the 33rd season.

not decided upon," said chair Tony Chua of Red Bull. "But there were a lot of things that we were able to finish and this means that the PBA is headed the right direction,"

If there was one thing that galvanized a board that always makes it a point to come up with a unanimous vote on even the most polarizing issues,

"There were some items that were at was the list of favorites in the coming at o deliver will not be on us. It's different season. And strangely enough, Barangay Ginebra and Alaska—the champion teams from the previous season-were not on it.

> "I like that (being the underdog)," said Kings governor Robert Non at the airport, just as the entourage that went here for a senes of meetings prepared to leave for home. At least the pressure

playing pressure-free."

"Let's face it, San Miguel and Talk 'N Text are truly loaded teams," said Alaska's Joaqui Trillo.

The Beermen and the Air21 Express open up hospitates in the only game scheduled on that Sunday following techno-inspired opening rites at 4:30

SPORTSWATCH

Hapee taps Norwood in PBL rookie draft

By Jasmine W. Payo

AS EXPECTED. FIL AMERICAN GABE Norwood emerged as the top pick in the PBL entry draft yesterday.

Although absent, the mainstay of the Phillippine team to the last Fiba Asia men's championship became the first choice of Hapee Toothpaste despite the uncertainty of the 6-foot-5 guard's return to the country.

Hapes took the gamble, citing ongoing talks with Norwood's agent Jim Naughton.

"I aiready talked to his manager and he (Naughton) promised to settle pending commitments of Gabe in the US before coming back to the country: then we'll talk about the offer," Hapee team manager Bernard Yang said after the draft held at the penthouse of the Philippine Stock Exchange in Pasig City.

Jervy Cruz, the 6-foot-5 star center of University of Santo Tomas, was the second choice, while FEU's Marnel Saracel was picked fourth by the Lina Group of Companies, which acquired the Weibest franchise.

Toyota Balintawak drafted JRU's James Ryan Sena third, along with Fil-Am Richard Cole and JRU standouts Marvin Hayes and John Wilson in the succeeding rounds.

Pharex made former FEU forward Alfred Gerilla its sixth pick, while Bacchus Energy Drink selected University of the East guard James Martinez at seventh

Harbour Centre, the reigning three-time champion, earned supplemental picks for caning its core to the national amateur team and chose Biola University's Solomon Mercado and FEU's Benedict Fernandez

San Miguer-Magnolia acquired Jefemili Khallii, Fil-Am Kevin Dalafu and University of the Philippines' Magt Sison.

Pharex tabbed Pepito Daryl, Jelf de Guzman and Kevyn White in the next rounds, while San Beda's John Hermida, Meichor

Challengers chase Coseteng JODY COSETENG WILL HAVE HIS HANDS full against three challengers when the

2007 Philippine Touring Car Championship holds its tifth and penultimate leg tomorrow at the Subic International Raceway Louis and Kookie Ramirez of Petron-SRA and Uly Maningding of Explorer Mo-

torsports will battle Coseteng, who is eyeing his 11th straight crown, in Group 1 Maningding earlier prevented a season

sweep for Cosateng when he topped Round 8 and became the first driver to beat the defending champion this season. Alvin Santos hopes to extend his win-

ning streak to 10 when he guns for his lith straight sweep in the Group 3 division.

Fast Track races tomorrow THE COUNTRY'S TOP RIDERS AS WELL as new motocross enthusiasts gear up for Round Two of On Any Sunday MX Series tomorrow at the Fast Track circuit in Taguig.

Round Three is set next Sunday, Oct. 7. Participants must have NAMSSA licenses and must have their own racing number. on their machines.

Rookie riders can vie in the Enduro Class, Beginner Production and the Underbone classes while kids may join the Junior 85, Junior 65 and Peewee 50 races.

Big Makati stagfest today QUALITY MATCHES GET GOING AT THE Makati Collseum today via the WTJ Altuz 5-

Stag Derby. Backed by sponsors B-Meg Derby Ace and Gran Matador, the stagfest will be spiced up by more than 70 encounters. A guaranteed prize of P500,000 is at stake

said host Ram Lopez, who will be support-

ed by WTJ Sports and Amusement Corp.

Meanwhile, the PCAP 5-stag derby series unfolds on Monday followed by the Gold Quest Champions 5-stag derby on Oct. 6 with Osang dala Cruz as host.

SIC cockers derby unfolds

MEMBERS OF THE SJC COCKERS CLUB and guest participants collide today in another 5-stag derby at the San Juan Colliseum with Sagupaan Complexor 3000 as chief backer

The third of six stagfests fined up by the Louis Cua, Osang dala Cruz and Jon.

group will feature some 70 fights. Elasique ruled the first leg last Sept. 8 while Max Roxas of Tariac emerged solo champlon in the second legilast Sept. 17

SPORTS

Asuncion siblings now rank No. 23, boost Olympic berth bid

By June Navarro

KENNIE AND KENNEVIC ASUNcion boosted their chances of clinching slots in next year's Bei-Jing Olympics after coming up with noteworthy performances in two recent overseas tournaments.

From No. 24, the country's top mixed doubles bet moved a notch higher in the World Badminton Federation rankings following a strong semifinal finish in the United States Open Grand Prix and a round-of-32 effort in the Yonex Japan Open Super Senes.

"It's an improvement," said Nelson Assencion, father and coach of the Asuncion siblings. "We'll need all the points we could get to make it to the Olympics."

Considered the best local hopes in the Southeast Asian Games, Asian Games and the Olympics, the Asuncions need to barge into

the top 16 to automatically secure a seat in the Beijing Games.

If the tandem fails to meet the target, the Asuncions should land no less than a spot in the top 20 to gain a wild-card entry.

"If we can go as far as the top 16, we'll be safe," said Kennie. "But a spot in the top 20 would aiso give us a strong chance to make it to Bening. At No. 23, we're slowly closing in on our target "

The Asuncions went as high as No. 11 in the middle of last year after a pair of victories in Australia and New Zealand and a runnerup finish in the 2006 RP Open. But the siblings sludded from the top 20 after missing several events.

After a brief respite, the Asuncions will try to earn more points in a tournament in Macau on Oct. 2, then proceed to Denmark three weeks later before going to France for an event slated Oct. 30-Nov. 4.

Bata, Django whitewash W. Cup foes

EFREN "BATA" REYES AND FRANCISCO "DJANGO" BUSTAmante pulled off the first whitewash of the tournament Thursday to underscore their worth as defending champions in the 2007 PartyPoker.net World Cup of Pool at the Outland Nightclub in Rotterdram, the Netherlands.

The top-rated Filipinos crushed Philipp Stojanovic and Ivica Putnik of Crostia, 8-0, and became the first team to reach the quarterfinals slated Saturday.

The impressive win created as much ripple as Japan's upset of the host country's bets and the tightrope act of the American combination of Rodnev Morris and Corev Deuel.

Satoshi Kawabata and Naovuki Oi out up a tremendous performance by beaung Netherlands A's Niels Peijen and Nick van BUSTAMANTE den Berg, 8-7, and the

in the semifinals set Sunday.

The Americans, seeded second as last year's losing finalists, proved auckier than the home stars as they slipped past Tony Drago and Alex Borg of Malta by a champion's purse of \$60,000. the same 8-7 cliffhanger.

In other matches, Switzerland (Marco Tschudi and Dunitri Jungo) booted out Hungary, 8-5; Finland (Mika Immonen and Markus Marlon Bernardino, Contributor





Juva) ousted Qatar, 8-5, and England (Imran Majid and Daryl Peach) slipped past Potand, 8-6.

Reyes and Bustamante will next face the winner of the France-China duel in the quarterfinals. Stephan Cohen and Vincent Pacquet banner France while the Chinese bets are Li Hewen and Fu Jianbo.

Japan will take on the winner of the clash between Singapore (Chan Keng Kwang and Toh Lian Han) and Austria (Martin Kempter and Albin Ouschan).

other Priday's against Korea, Austria against Singapore, Switzerland against US, Finland against England and Bel-

The scotch doubles event offers

The third-ranked Taiwanese

Republic of the Philippines DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT National Capital Region DY Int'l Bidg 1650 San Merceilno

cor General Malvar St., Malate, Manils **NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S**

FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

Notice is hereby given that the fo with this Regional Office applica	ollowing companies/ atten/s for Allen Emp	employers have fl ployment Permit/s
Name and address of Company/EmployerFo	Name of reign Nationalf b Citizenship	Pealties
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SAVEKO CORP. 1012 Metropolitan Ave. cor Sacred St., San Anlonio Villege, Makati City	Konosuke Kuwabara Japanese	General Manager
RP-SAKURA INTERNATIONAL CORP, Suita 509 FEA Bidg, No. 305-306 Dasmarinas SL, Binondo, Merda	Changuang Guo Chinasa	Director
CHINA NICKEL MINING PHILIPPINES CORPORATION Suite 212 State Condo. IV Bidg., Ortigas Ave Greenhills,	Yue He Chinèse	Coordinator Staff

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Teck Ming Tan Malaysian

Randy Choong

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Malaysian

Bok Mi Kim

Sconju Kwait

Bonggu Kong

Jeonghaon Song

(w/o Ahri)

Korean.

Korean

IT Tectrolcian.

Manager,

Mechanical

Department

Customer Care

Systema Analyst

General Manager

Consultent

Representative (CCR)

Bin Stk Jin Korean Salcedo Village, Makati City

Kit Wayne Schenkei Manager

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Kanji Incue

Yan Jun Hong

Young Soon Chang

Sim Khang Shen

Eddy Allan Law

Wijit Sattayeponn

Saw Chin Wong

Chee Keong Ng

Charles Hwang

Horng Cherng

Singaporean

Yes Wen Jet

Melaysian

Lo Ka Ming

Malaysian

Malaysian

Korean

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(w/o Yang)

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Kwang Sze Sim

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Maruit Chaiyamcan

Lau Kong Chas

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Mandarin/Cantonese Speaking Executive (Operations) - Unit 2

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Mandarin/Cantonesa

Speaking Executive

(Operations) - Unit 1

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Speaking) - Unit 2

(Mandarin/Cantonese

Mandarin/Cantonesa

Speaking-Executive

(Operations)-Unit 1

Bi-lingual Speaking

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Mandarin/Cantonese

Speaking-Executive

Mandarin/Cantonesa

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(Operations)-Unit 1

Bi-lingual Speaking

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IT Supervisor

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Speaking-Executive

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Speaking) - Unit 2

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(Operations) - Unit 1

Mandarin/Cantonese

Speaking-Executive

(Operations)-Unit 1

Mandarin/Cantonesa

Speaking - Executive

(Operations)-Unit 3

Director/Interim

Treasurer/Director

General Manager

President

Project Manager-

Unit 3

(Mandann/Cantonese

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Sports-book

Manager

(Operations) Unit 1

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5779 Zobel Roxas St., Palanan, Makati City

Youngdae Gwon Korean

Assistant Administrative Manager

President

if you have any information/objection to the above mantioned application/s piease communicate with the Regional Director

RAYMUNDO G. AGRAVANTE OIC-Regional Director

(PDI Sept. 29, 2007)

Japanese could face the Filipinos round-of-32 matches pir Canada gium against Taiwan.

are bannered by former world 9ball champion Wu Chia-ching and Yang Ching-shun.

Korean teenagers

clinch Fed League title for Northwoods

KOREAN TEENERS CHOI force the extension. Hyan-jin and Choi Min-sik produced an eagle in the greensome format and carried Royal Northwoods to victory in its playoff with Eastridge for the 2007 Federation Golf League championship recently.

The 17-year-old Sik hit the green of Northwoods' par-5 first hole with a solid 3-wood second shot from 240 yards then Jin clinched it for the home team by sinking a putt from 30 feet that broke the hearts of the Eastridge players.

Eastridge ber Nick Kim had left his own playover attempt from 205 yards short of the green but parmer Rading Decepeda chipped to the fringe to make things easy for their Northwoods rivals, Both teams had to return to

the course two days after their

weekend title showdown,

which ended in a rie in regulation play but couldn't be continued due to derkness. Eastridge prevailed at home, 3-2, but Northwoods battled back with its own 3-2 victory to

It took less than 20 minutes for Northwoods to wrap it up in the playoff as the Chois displayed poise under pressure. Northwoods, which also won

the Fed League in 2004, became only the third team in the league after Riviera and Forest Hills to win two titles. Eastndge posted its best finish so far. "We worked really hard for

this," said Northwoods captain Rodel Mangulabnan. "I think we were able to field the right combinations in crucial matches." The awarding ceremonies of

the tourney sponsored by Immuvit/Pascual Laboratories and Spa 6750 will be held on Oct. 2 at Manila Golf Club. Northwoods played minus its top man, Omar Dungea, who

was in the United States play-

ing in another tournament. Northwoods beat Valley in the quarterfinals and reached the finals by turning back Aiabang. Eastridge first downed Canlubang before ousting eliminations topnotcher Porest Hills in the Final Four series,

SPURTS

PRESIDENTS CUP

US golfers surge ahead

MONTREAL-THE AMERICANS GOT off to a near-perfect start Thursday in the Presidents Cup, getting superb play from veterans and rookies alike in winning 5 1/2 points out of the six alternate-shot matches at Royal Montre-

And if not for US captain Jack Nicklaus, it might have been worse

Despite a leaderboard covered with American red numbers, perhaps the most poignant moment of a gray afternoon was Nicklaus instructing Phil Mickelson and Woody Austin to concede a 3 1/2-foot par putt on the 18th hole that assured Mike Weir of Canada and his International team its only point of the opening session.

In a tense battle with only six holes halved, the match was all square going to the 18th when both sides missed the green. Mickelson blasted out to 12 feet, while Wetr chipped to 3 1/2 feet above the hole. Austin made the par putt, and before Vijay Singh spotted his ball, the match was conceded.

"Captain Nicklaus was right. It was the right thing to do," Mickelson said.

Questioned about the call during a news conference, Nicklaus would not admit to making the decision and said he had left it up to Mickelson and Austin.

The US generosity was directed at Canada's Werr, who had hit the approach to leave partner Singh a 3 1/2foot attempt



TIGER Woods (top photo, left) and Charles Howell III led an American charge that left the Internationals, led by Ernie Els (left, bottom photo) and Angel Cabrera, scrambling at its wake.

right decision and they both felt Mike right thing," Nicklaus said had played a good match and Mike being

"I think Phil and Woody made the a Canadian and being here that it was the

The matches began 30 minutes late

because of a downpour on the He Bizard, and once they began, the Americans wasted no time taking control, Steve Stricker, returning to the Presidents Cup after an 11-year absence, joined with rookie Hunter Mahan for a 3-and-2 victory over the Australian pair of Adam Scott and Geoff Oxilyy.

Tiger Woods and Charles Howell III picked up a 3-and-1 victory over KO Chor and Nick O'Hern.

It was the biggest blowout in the opening session since the Americans won 5-0 in 2000

Rory Sabbatini and Trevor Immelman, who lost an early 2-up tead, were all square playing the 18th when Sabbatini hooked his tee shot into the water, leading to a bogey. Zach Johnson played his tee shot well to the right, Stewart Cink found a greenside bunker, and Johnson secured the match with a bunker shot so close it was conceded to par.

Emic Els and Angel Cabrera were run over by Jim Furyk and David Toms, who raced out to a 3-up lead with five holes

Then there was Retief Goosen and Stuart Appleby, also tried to squeeze out a half-point with a win on the 18th hole Appleby, however, pulled his approach so badly and Goosen's best option was to take a penalty stroke and hit their third shot over a row of corporate chalets. Lucas Glover and Scott Verplank made a par from the bunker for a

Archers target crown

GAMES TODAY (Ninoy Aguino Stadium) 2 p m.—Atenso vs Jnlv. of the Phils. (Women) 4 p.m.—La Salle vs Ateneo (Juniors)

ATENEO'S LIFE CONTINUES TO hang in the balance, even in the juniors division of the UAAP basketball tourna-

La Salle Zobel tries to reassume domination of the high school ranks when it shoots for the title against Ateneo in Game 2 of the best-of-three finals at the Ninoy Aguino stadium to-

"We were never given a chance to defend our championship last year," said La Salle coach Boris Aldeguer. "But that's life, we have to move on We have a chance to win again, that's what matters most."

The Junior Archers, the 2005 champions, found themselves grounded as La Salle served a one-year auspension last year due to an eligibility infrac-

Game 2 of the best of three title series between the Jumor Archers and defending champion Blue Eaglets will start at 4 p.m. at the Ninoy Aquino Sta-

"We cannot put our guard down, we don't know who's going to deliver,"

The women's division is a different story, though, as the Lady Eagles provide the Katipunan-based school with its best chance of a crown.

The Lady Eagles try to finish off the Lady Marcons in Game 2 of their own best-of-three affair at 2 p.m.

The Junior Archers turned back the Eaglets in the series opener, 76-74, last Saturday. Jasmine W. Payo

Yankees keep AL East title hopes afloat

ST. PETERSBURG, FLORIDA—PHIL Hughes allowed four hits in seven innings and Jose Molina delivered a tworun single to lead the New York Yankees over the Tampa Bay Devil Rays 3-1 in the American League on Thursday.

Victory kept alive Yankees' hopes for the AL East title, with a place in

the playoffs already assured

Joba Chamberlain pitched on consecutive days for the first time, striking out BJ Upton to escape a jam with runners at first and second in the eighth inning. Jose Veras pitched the ninth, completing a six-hitter for his second career

New York went ahead in the seventh against Jon Switzer (0-2). Shelly Duncan singled and Robinson Cano doubled before Molina's grounder through a drawn-in infield put New York ahead 3-1. Twins 5, Red Sox 4

In Boston, Michael Cuddyer and Garrett Jones of Minnesota homered off 20game winner Josh Beckett in his last start before the playoffs, preventing the Red Sox from closing in on the AL East

Boston has already clinched a playoff berth, but it needs two more wins-or Yankees losses-to clinch its first AL East title since 1995.

Even in Milo hoops tilt, it's still Ateneo-La Salle La Salle Green Hills and Ateneo will dispute

the 2007 Milo Best Center SBP Passerelle tournament finals tomorrow at the Jacinto Tiu court of the Xavier Sports Complex. La Salle will defend its SBP title against Ate-

neo in a rematch of last year's title showdown. Championship matches begin at 9 a.m.

The LSGH cagers reached the finals after ousting San Beda Coilege, 52-42, in the semifinals while the Blue Eaglets advanced by conquering Xavier School, 68-43.

Before that La Salle-Ateneo tiff, Xavier and Ateneo will dispute the Passerelle title.

Xavier, which earlier ousted 2006 winner San Beda College-A, made the finals after a 58-50 semifinal victory over last year's runner-up, De La Salle Zobel.

Ateneo earned the right to face Xavier when it outclassed archrival LSGH, 57-51

Games for third place start at 8 a.m. at the practice court with La Saile squads Green Hills and Zobel colliding in the Passerelle division, to be followed by the SBC Xavier SBP encounter.

The Best Center SBP-Passerelle is a nationwide youth league featuring the country's top elementary and high school teams.



JOSEPH Tanhueco (left) drives past Jose Oppus in a miniaturized version of the Atene-La Salle rivalry.

PSA, Brickroad to raise funds for RP Olympians

THE PHILIPPINE SPORTSWRITERS ASSOciation (PSA) and Brickroad Gym and Aspen Spa on Thursday signed an agreement for a joint venture aimed at raising financial support for Filipino athletes competing in next year's Beijing Olympics.

Initial target of the two groups is to raise at least P2 million which will be turned over to the Philippine Olympic Committee (POC) next year to augment funds for the participanon of the country's Olympians.

Kristine Mae Robles, General Manager of Brickroad Gym and Aspen Spa, ininated the fund raiser for the country's Olympians and promised to tap the wide connections of the Sta. Lucia Group of Companies to support the project dubbed "My Olympic Dream."

"We have been deeply involved in basketball, through the PBA, and golf for so long [and] this will be the first time that we will be embarking on such an ambitious project,"

PSA president and Daily Tribune sports editor Aldrin Cardona said the joint venture has drawn interest from the private sector, adding that the Philippine Olympic Committee (POC) has given its full backing to the "My Olympic Dream," project.

A golf tournament preceded the signing of agreement at the Orchard Golf and Country Club with Ernie Gonzales of the INOURE emerging as the overall and Class A Champs on. Gonzales won a brand new 29-inch television set and a cash prize for his feat



























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16-160 to get year own Petron-BPI Maxtersatti

RP external debt fell to \$53B in June

BIR see exemption from salary law/B4

Travel group bats for tourism incentives /B8

© Customs, BSP cites weaker dollar, local firms' investments in ROPs

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE COUNTRY'S EXTERNAL DEBT BURDEN EASED BY \$1 BILLION to \$53 billion in June this year from the previous quarter, translating to an improved external debt ratio of 41.3 percent of domestic output, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas reported yesterday.

ments brought on by currency fluctuations, particularly the weakening of the US dollar, and increase of local firms' investments in Philippine foreign currency-denominated debt papers, or ROPs

As ownership of some of the govern- \$53.9-billion level as of end-June last year.

The contraction was partly due to adjust- ment's IOUs shifted to domestic investors, the portion of debt previously counted as part of foreign debt stock was thus converted into domestic debt.

> The country's external debt stock registered with the BSP also eased compared to the

Local borrowers are required to seek BSP approval before tapping overseas loans if repayments are to be sourced from the local banking system.

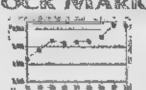
The BSP estimated that there was a \$483-million increase in the investment of local banks in Philippine fOUs issued abroad, while foreign exchange revaluation adjustments on third currency-denominated accounts, given the US dollar's downtrend, resulted in a \$576-million decline in the debt stock.

About 53.3 percent of the debt stock was denominated in US dollars and about 24.2

Currencies

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

Stock Market



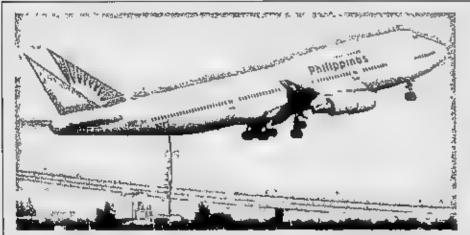
(See stock market report on Page B2)



SHARE PRICES YESTERDAY CLOSED 0 1 percent lower as investors took profits on index heavyweight Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. (PLDT), dealers said.

PLOT, the country's biggest company by market value, set a new record high in the first hour of trading before profit taking set

The composite index was down 4-61 points at 3,572.90 after trading between 3,562.99 and 3,617.16. Volume tota ad 4.3 SHARES/BZ



A PAL plane takes flight. The flag carrier appears to have regained its financial health as it announces its exit from receivership. INCLURER PHOTO

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson improved financial condition and their ability to service debts as these fall due," SEC commission secretary

THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE Commission has approved Philippune Airlines' plan to exit from rehabilitation and "receivership status" almost a decade since the flag carrier almost succumbed to the burden

From the reports [PAL officials have] submitted, we've seen their

PAL secures regulator's

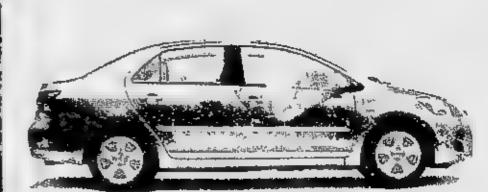
approval to exit rehab

rehabilitation plan." Receivership is a condition of a corporation, where a receiver or a third party has been appointed to protect the company's assets for the

Gerard Lukban said. "We also took

note of their conformance with their

Imagine a beautiful moment From there to here, 2 miles away. From me to you, 2 smiles, my dear. From us to anywhere, twice the peace of mind.



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Ayala eyes P5-B bond issue

Peso tests 44:\$1 level, but closes at 45.04

THE PESO BROKE INTO THE 44.\$1 level during early trade yesterday for the first time in two months on the resurgence of "hot money" inflows and the sustained influx of remittances from overseas Filipinos. The peso yesterday rallied to as high as 44.90 to \$1 prompting the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas to intervene.

With the BSP's heavy buying of dollars at the spot foreign exchange market, the peso pulled back to close at 45.04 to \$1, currency traders said.

Yesterday's finish was slightly lower than Thursday's 45.01 to \$1, while volume thanned to \$344.30 million from the previous day's \$671 million.

The peso last breached the 45 barrier on July 24 when it hit 44.70 \$1, which is so far this year's peak.

At the sidelines of a Chamber of Thrift banks' forum yesterday, BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said yesterday's rally was still partly due to the global relief brought about by the US Federal Reserve's 50-basis point cut in its interest rate

"There has been some orderly portfolio adjustment and return of investments to emerging markets, including the Philippines," Tetangco said.

Portfolio investments refers to foreign investments in local stocks, bonds and other money market products.

Currency traders said the BSP gobbled up about \$200 million from the spot market yesterday to curb the peso's sharp appreciation.

"The market is looking at the 44.50-44.70 level maybe next week on the back of a weaker dollar," said a trader from a big local commercial bank. "The BSP has been heavily buying dollars in the last two days," the trader added.

Tetangco added that the continuing surplus in the current account position, arising from strong export earnings and OFW remittances, also continued to support the local currency. Doris C. Dumlao

ATS declares cash dividends

ABOITTZ TRANSPORT SYSTEMS CORP. yesterday said it would pay cash dividends of P0.30 for every common and preferred

The dividend will be paid to stockholders on record as of Sept. 12, 2007.

The ATS board approved this at a special

board meeting held on Aug. 30.

As of June 30, 2007, the company's combined common and preferred shares stood at 2.4 billion. Based on this, the dividends will amount to P3.12 billion.

The company said the dividends were made possible by the recent sale of Super-Perry 15 to Henng-A Shipping Co., Ltd. ATS gamed P243 million upon delivery of the Riza T. Olchondra

Shares close ...

From page B1

billion shares worth P5.6 billion (\$124.6 million).

Gainers narrowly beat decliners 56 to 54, while 55 stocks were flat.

The broader all share index rose 3.91

points to 2,226.71 PLDT fell P30 to P2,910, off a new record

high of P2.

Ayala Corp. rose P15 to P550. Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co. led gains in the financial sector, closing one peso higher at P56. Megaworld Corp. rose 10 centavos to

Select mining stocks were also in favor, led by Geograce Resources, which jumped 18 centavos to P2.36 as gold traded around. 28-year highs.

RP external

percent in Japanese yen.

Foreign loan transactions—availments and repayments-also contributed to a net

decline of \$7 million.

Debt prepayments during the quarter amounted to \$520 million, including the redemption of the government's remaining \$126 million Brady bonds, originally ma-

turing in 2018. With this reduction, the total external debt as a ratio of gross domestic product improved to 41.3 percent at end-June from 50.5 percent a year ago.

About 89 percent of the foreign loans carried a medium- to long-term maturity.

Of the total debt stock, consolidated public sector external borrowings amounted to \$36.8 billion, tower than the previous quarter's \$38.8 billion.

Proceeds to be used in refinancing obligations

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

AYALA CORP IS PLANNING TO issue P5 billion in five-year fixed rate peso corporate bonds as it continues to build up cash for 2008.

Ayala treasurer Ramon G. Opulencia said the company was scheduled to file yesterday afternoon its application for the peso bond float with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Ayala is in talks with a consortium of six banks, led by BPI Capital, to underwrite the bond float It has yet to set the issue date.

The minimum issue size is P5 billion with an option to increase it to P7 billion.

The bond proceeds will be used to partly refinance debts before they mature next year and in 2009.

"This is in line with our thrust to focus on sourcing our funds from the domestic market and lowering our dependence on first semester was P13 billion.

the offshore market," Opulen-

Over the years, Ayala has shifted its debt mix to 81 percent in pesos and 19 percent in US dollars compared with 90 percent US dollars and 10 percent in pesos in the past.

"This is in line with the continuing commitment to provide alternative investments to investors in the market, similar to what we have done in the past three years," Opulencia said.

Ayala has so far prepaid and refinanced P8 billion worth of debts since the start of the year, generating savings of about P500 million over the remaining life of these debts.

Proceeds from Ayala's value realization initiatives and healthy dividend flows from subsidiaries brought the company's cash level to P20 billion by the end of the first half.

its net debt as of the end of the

Money supply growth slowed down in Aug.

By Doris C. Dumiao

THE GROWTH IN THE COUNtry's money supply eased to 14.9 percent in August year-on-year from 18.7 percent in July, giving the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipmas more flexibility to ease its monetary policy soon, analysts said.

BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. yesterday said demand for money decelerated even on a month-on-month basis, as seasonally adjusted domestic liquidity (m3) slowed down by 1.6 percent from a 0.8percent rise in July.

Domestic liquidity or m3 is the broadest measure of money and is used to estimate the entire supply of money in an economy-including money in circulation, demand deposits, money purchase agreements.

The BSP will continue to monitor economic developpolicy is delivering price stabili-

ty and that inflation expectations are well-anchored." Tetangco said.

He said the growth reflected the strong external payments position of the country, which resulted in an expansion of the banking system's net foreign as-

However, the overall growth was tempered by the decline in net domestic assets by 4.6 percent in August from 0.4 percent

Tetangeo said there was a large drop in "other items" account-which included the special deposit accounts (SDAs) and the overnight borrowings-following the implementation of certain BSP policy measures in May.

The BSP has locked up market funds and short-term re- P433.5 billion of excess money in its high-yielding SDAs as of Aug. 24, making the central bank more reliant on this mopments to ensure that monetary ping-up tool compared to its overnight borrowings.

PAL secures ...

benefit of creditors.

Rehabilitation is the process which an ailing company has to undergo to recover its financial

PAL has been under both rehabilitation and receivership at the supervision of the SEC since

PAL entered receivership under the supervision of the SEC after the carrier went through a series of setbacks, which led to massive financial losses.

It came to a point where airline operations had to be shut down which, in turn, pushed PAL to the brink of liquidation, officials earlier said.

PAL may now exit from its retime, PAL president Jaime 1999

Bautista said.

He also said that, once PAI has been freed up from receivership, PAL Holdings will pursue a fund raising activity early next year that may entail the issuance of shares, or securing new loans.

PAEs permanent rehabilita tion receiver chair Renato 2 Francisco reported to the SEC that from March 15, 1999 to Aug. 31 this year, PAL manage ment has "faithfully complied with the payment of its out standing debts."

Total payment to creditors during the period amounted to \$1.95 billion in principal and interest, including \$187 mil lion in prepayments. As or With the SEC's approval, Aug. 31, PAL had reduced its outstanding debt to \$869 mil ceivership status ahead of lion, from \$2.12 billion is

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BUSINESS

Power sector needs ₱304B in investments

TO ENSURE ADEQUATE POWER SUPply in the coming years, the Department of Energy is seeking at least P304 billion in additional investments from the private sector.

In a statement issued yesterday, Energy Secretary Angelo Reyes said the amount would cover the construction of natural gas pipelines and the conversion of coal and thermal power plants to natural gas.

Another area that could benefit from the additional investments, he said, would be the biofuels industry.

He also urged investors to actively participate in the government's efforts to privatize the power sector, particularly in the sale of National Power Corp.'s generation assets and the auction of the 25-year National Transmission Corp

Under the Medium-Term Philippine Development Plan, the DOE is batting for private sector investments worth at reast P580 billion in the coming years, for all aspects of the energy sector.

Since 2001, the DOE had firmed up P200 billion worth of investments, the bulk of which would go to oil and gas exploration, This left P380 billion which the DOE has yet to get from the private sector. The bulk of the amount was earmarked for the power sector.

Reyes said the DOE would review its rules and regulations to make it easier for investors to infuse much needed cash Abigail L. Ho into the power sector.

PSALM obtains contracts for Calaca plant



SUPPORT FOR MINIDAMAQ DEVELOPMENT

US Deputy Chief of Mission Paul Jones (right), with Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industries (PCCI) president Samie Lim and Gen. Santos City Mayor Pedro Acharon make their way to the 16th Mindanao Business Conference. Jones spoke before 500 delegates of the MinBizCon, stressing the US government's commitment to remain an active partner in Mindanao's development. He noted the vast opportunities in the region and how they will help spur a more prosperous and peaceful Mindanao. This year's event was organized by the General Santos City Chamber of Commerce, PCCI, and supported by the USAID-funded GEM Program.

Power agency sweetens pot prior to facility's auction next month

By Abigail L. Ho

THE POWER SECTOR ASSETS AND Liabilities Management Corp. has secured transition supply contracts covering almost half the installed capacity of the 600-megawatt (MW) Calaca coal-fired power plant in Batangas.

The plant is set to be auctioned off next month.

National Power Corp. president Cyril Del Callar said 290 MW worth of supply contracts had already been put in place for the Calaca plant, the bulk of which were for some of Manila Electric Co.'s supply requirements.

The 600-MW Masinloc coal-fired power plant in Zambales was sold in July for \$930 million, with 265 MW worth of supply contracts attached to

Supply contracts provide the winning bidder a ready market for the power to be generated by its power

The presence of supply contracts makes the power facilities to be auctioned off more attractive to potential During the July 18 pre-bid confer-

ence for the Calaca plant, 17 investor groups signified their interest to bid for the generation asset.

PSALM is scheduled to bid out the Calaca plant on Oct, 16.

According to PSALM, it should be able to reach the SO-percent privatization level of Napocor's Luzon and Visayas capacities by year's end.

The 70-percent level should be attained by next year. The entire privatization process is scheduled to be com-

pleted by 2009. PSALM has so far sold 24.8 percent of Napocor's 4,335.7-MW capacity in the two grids.

Apart from Calaca, other plants the PSALM will be auctioning off within the year are the 175-MW Ambuk.ao-Binga hydropower plant package in November, and the 192.5 MW Palinpinon geothermal facility and 146.5-MW Panay diesel-fired power plant

package in December

PSALM has so far sold eight Napocor hydropower facilities, including the 3.5-MW Talomo plant in Davao, the 1.6-MW Agusan facility in Bukidnon, the 1.8-MW Barit plant in Camarines Sur, the 0.4-MW Cawayan plant in Sorsogon, the 1.2-MW Loboc plant in Bohol, the 112-MW Pantabangan-Masiway package in Nueva Ecija and the 360 MW Magat plant in Isabela.

The first big-ticket item that it has been able to privatize is the Masinloc

PSALM is also preparing to auction off the 25-year National Transmission Corp. concession in December.

Basic Energy beefs up management for PNOC-EDC bid

SM unit picks 2 foreign advisers

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

SM PRIME HOLDings Inc. of mall czar Henry Sy has picked two foreign investment banks to study the company's planned acquisition of three malls owned by the Sy family in China

In a disclosure to the stock exchange, SM Prime said it had appointed Citigroup Global Markets Ltd and Macquarie Securities (Asia) Pte. Ltd to be the joint financial advisers for the proposed plan to fold in Sy's privately owned mails into SM Prime, Sy's pubticly listed mall developer

SM Prime said it would announce further details on the proposed acquisition as soon as the study was complet-

Sources said the investment banks would evaluate the planned acquisition and advise SM Prime on its effects on the company. Sy owns two

malls in Fugian province—a 120,000-square meter shopping mall opened in 2003 in Xiamen, and a 170,000-sq. m. mad in Jin Jiang City launched in late 2005

Sy's third mall in China, which is as big as the Jin Jiang mall, was opened last year in Chengdu, the fifth largest city in the country, with a population of 2.3 million.

Chengdu is said to be one of the most important economic centers and transportation and communicanon hubs in China.

IN PREPARATION FOR ITS BID to acquire a 60-percent stake in PNOC Energy Development Corp., listed firm Basic Energy Corp. has beefed up its advisory team with the appointment of two new members.

Basic Energy compliance officer Angel Gahol told the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday that the company had appointed Oscar De Venecia as consultant and chair of its advisory board.

De Venecia has been with the firm for more than 30 years, holding various positions, including president and chief executive.

dent of the Petroleum Association of the Philippines.

ed former Finance Undersecretary Gabriel Singson Jr. as member of the company's advisory

The company is one of the 24 entities that signified interest to bid for the government's remaining 60-percent stake in PNOC-

The other 23 groups are ABN-AMRO Bank, About Power Corp., Africa Israel Group-Asia Pacific, Alsons Consolidated Resources Inc., American Orient Capital Partners (Philippines) Inc., Ashmore Energy, ATN Hold-He is also past chair and presi-ings Inc., Belo Gozon Elma Parel Asuncion & Lucilla, Pirst Gen Corp., Geystr Green Energy repre-

Basic Energy likewise appoints sented by Sycip Salazar, International Power Plc., Kanematsu Corp., Latham & Warkins LLP. Marubeni Philippines Corp., One Energy Ltd., Orix Corp., PCCI Securities Brokers Corp., Reykjavík Energy Invest, Rosalie A. Dimaano, Suez Energy Asia Co. Ltd., Sumitomo Corp., Sycip Saiazar Hernandez & Garmaitan Law Offices, and Triratna Holdings Corp.

> According to the bidding timetable, potential investors have until Oct 5 to submit the inrial prequalification requirements, including the confidentiality agreement and undertaking.

The PNOC Privatization Com-

qualified bidders on Oct. 10.

Prequalified bidders will be required to pay a nonrefundable fee of \$5,000 on Oct. 11-12 for them to avail themselves of the draft transaction documents, the information package and the due diligence procedures.

Only those who will prequalify will be allowed to conduct due diligence audit on the shares to be sold. This should start no later than Oct. 15.

The prequalified bidders will then be required to submit final qualification documents by 7 p.m. of Oct. 26, with those who will be able to pass this final screening to be given until 9 a.m. of Nov. 21 to mittee will release the list of pre- turn in their bids. Abigail L Ho

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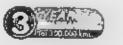
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BUSINESS

BIR, Customs see exemption from salary law

Measure to improve gov't collection performance

By Michelle V. Remo

A BILL EXEMPTING THE BUREAU OF INternal Revenue and the Bureau of Customs from the Salary Standardization Law has been filed with the House of Representatives.

The bill, authored by Rep. Danilo Suarez of the third district of Quezon, was in response to the request of the finance department for Congress' help in professionalizing the two revenue-collecting agencies by allowing increases in the salaries of their employees.

The Salary Standardization Law, or Republic Act No. 6758, provides for a uniform salary structure for government employ-

Finance Secretary Margarito Teves earlier said allowing increases in the salaries of BIR and Customs employees would help boost revenue collections by these agen-

enue earners among government agencies, and their collection performance has significant impact on the national government's ability to meet its deficit-reduction targets.

The BIR has more than 11,000 employees, while the BOC has more than 4,000.

Revenue Commissioner Lilian Hefti said her office would lobby for the approval of the bill, saying this would inspire revenue collectors to improve their revenue collection performance.

"This bill will definitely benefit the BIR. This will help boost the morale of our people," Hefti said.

The ball prescribes a formula for computing the salaries of BIR and BOC employees. Hefti said the bill would effectively increase the current salaries of BIR employees by 300 percent based on the agency's collec-

Teves said increasing salary levels might be a more prudent way of boosting collec-

The BIR and the BOC are the biggest rev-tion than the Lateral Attrition Law, which mandates the granting of rewards to BIR and BOC employees whenever yearly collection targets are reached.

The law also imposes penalties if these agencies fail to meet their goals. If the revenue-collection shortfall was at least 7.5 percent of the full-year target, concerned employees may be reassigned, demoted or

Customs employees are entitled to monetary rewards because the BOC surpassed its collection target of by more than P2 bilbon in 2006. The BIR failed to meet its target for 2006 but none of its employees will be penalized because no revenue district office posted a shortfall of at least 7.5 per-

The Department of Finance said the rewards for BOC employees for the 2006 collection performance would be given next year. The delay in the release of the rewards was due to the failure of the national government to take this into account when the 2007 budget was prepared.

The BIR and the BOC failed to meet their revenue collection targets in the first half of this year but both are hopeful their full-year targets would still be achieved considering the better collection performance in July and August.

The BIR is tasked to collect P765 billion in taxes this year, while the BOC should turn in P228 2 billion. These are consistent with the national government's goal of limiting its budget deficit to only P63 billion this year from last year's P64.8 bil-

Balanced budget seen dependent on privatization revenues

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE GOVERNMENT'S GOAL of wiping out its budget deficit next year is feasible but largely dependent on nonrecurring revenues from privatization, Japan Credit Rating Agency Ltd. said.

In its quarterly review on the Philippines, JCRA said the government must maintain the improving fiscal trend and lock in gains from the high economic growth seen this year to meet huge infrastructure spending needs.

"It is of paramount importance for the Arroyo administration to continue efforts to strengthen its tax collection capability so that the activated economic performance may steadily lead to an expansion of tax revenues," JCRA said.

"This is particularly of relevance in view of its infrastructure development plan that will require an increased spending," it added

The rating agency noted the

emment deficit as a ratio of gross domestic product to 1 1 percent in 2006 after peaking at 5.3 percent in 2002.

"The improving fiscal position has triggered a virtuous cycle of prompting the appreciation of the peso, which sent both the inflation rate and interest rates falling," JCRA said.

For the first eight months of the year, the government has trimmed its budget shortfall to P25.5 billion versus the P42 billion deficit cap for the period.

Given a prospective gain in privatization revenues, JCRA said the deficit target of P63 billion appeared achievable.

But in view of the government's infrastructure development plan, it said the administration would need to boost its tax collection capabiaty further.

JCRA also cited the stronger inflows of foreign direct investment to the country this year, which it attributed to the improved investor confidence decline in the national gov- in the Philippine economy.

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY Region VI - Iloilo City

The National Food Authority, Region 6, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites interested NFA registered grains hauling/trucking service contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the provision of grains hauling/trucking services thru RORO (door-to-door) for Calendar Year 2008 with Project Reference No. RO6-2008-04.

Lof No.	Parliculars	Alinimum Trucking Regnt.	Quantity in bags	Rate/bag (2h2)	ABC (PhP)
1	Transfer of NFA rice to Sacolad City receiving warehouses (door-to-door)				
	a. From Joro Triplex/Kabsaka White.	14		25.77	1,546,200.00
	b, From Oumongos Grains Center TOTAL			23.84	2,499,800,00

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking similar project within the last three (3) years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. Or in lieu of the single largest contract, potential bidders should have at least three (3) completed similar contracts in the aggregate amount of at least 50% of the ABC to be bid: provided that the largest of these strater contracts must be at least 25% of the ABC, and the bidder has been in existence for at least 3 years prior to posting of this IAEB. Provided further that prospective bidder must have key personnet and equipment (owned, leased or under purchase) available for the prosecution of the project. The list of minimum requirement is indicated in the Eligibility Forms. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Postqualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids. Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9164 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR). The complete schedule of activities is listed, as follows.

Activities	Schedule
issuance of Bld Documents	October 1 - 12, 2007 8AM - 4PM
Pre-Bid Conference	October 15, 2007 3:30 PM
Opening of Bids	October 29, 2007 3:30PM

Bid documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Five Thousand Pesos (P6,000.00) to the National Food Authority Cashler

The National Food Authority, Region 6 assumes no responsibility whalsoever to compensate or Indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

The National Food Authority, Region 6 reserves the right to accept or reject any 6td, and to annual the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

NATIONAL FOOD ALTHORITY VILMA H. ZARRAGA, MNSA Quintin Salas, Jaro, Holio City **2**(033) 329-2165 / 320-6246 Fax No. (033) 320-4764

(Sgd.) VILMA H. ZARRAGA, MNSA

(PDK Sept 28, 2007)

BAC Chairperson



NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY

Region VI - Hollo City

The National Food Authority, Region 6, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites interested NFA registered grains hauling/trucking service contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the provision of grains hauling/trucking services for Calendar Year 2008 with Project Reference No. RO6-2008-03.

Lot No.	Parliculars	Minimum Trucking Regent.	Minimum Capacity 50-kg bag	Houling Rate (PhP)	ABC (PhP)
_	Within Pancy biand Radius of 20 km 8, below Exceeding 20 km to 50 km Exceeding 50 km to 100 km Exceeding 400 km to 150 km Exceeding 400 km to 150 km	16		3.75/MT/km 3.50/MT/km 3.25/MT/km 3.00/MT/km	3.306,625.00
2	Within Negros Decisional Radius of 10 km & below Exceeding 10 km to 50 km Exceeding 50 km to 100 km Exceeding 100 km to 150 km Exceeding 100 km to 150 km Exceeding 100 km to 150 km	lô	6,400	75.00/M7 3.75/MI/am 3.50/MI/am 3.25/MI/am 3.00/MI/am	3,681,000,00
	TOTAL				6.989,625.00

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking similar project within the last three (3) years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bloding. Or in lieu of the single largest contract, potential bidders should have at least three (3) completed similar contracts in the aggregate amount of at least 50% of the ABC to be bid; provided that the largest of these similar contracts must be at least 25% of the ABC, and the bidder has been in existence for at least 3 years prior to posting of this IAEB. Provided further that prospective bidder must have key personnel and equipment (owned, leased or under purchase) available for the prosecution of the project. The list of minimum requirement is indicated in the Eligibility Forms. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Exemination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Postqualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All perticulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR). nists askedula of antiques is Netad as dalla-

l li	riplete schedule of activities is rated, as follows.							
	Activities	Schedule	÷					
	Issuance of Bid Documents	October 1 - 12, 2007	BAM - 4PM					
	Pre-Bid Conference	October 15, 2007	1:30 PM					
	Opening of Bids	October 29, 2007	1:30PM					

Bid documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Five Thousand Pesos (P5,000 00) to the National Food Authority Cashier

The National Food Authority, Region 6 assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

The National Food Authority, Region 6 reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY VILMA H. ZARRAGA, MNSA Quintin Salas, Jaro, ficilo City **2**(033) 329-2165 / 320-6246 Fax No. (033) 320-4764

(PO) Babil 29, 2007)

(Sgd.) VILMA H. ZARRAGA, MINSA **8AC Chairperson**

Food sector embarks on sustainable agriculture initiative programs

AT THIS TIME WHEN THE WORLD has become more conscious of the effects of industrialization on the environment, the food industry decided to step up efforts to meet the challenge with a Sustainable Agnculture initiative platform.

SAI is a groundbreaking program created by leading food firms Nestle, Danone and Unilever to actively support and promote sustamable agriculture. It encompasses social, environmental and economic dimensions that impact on the people's lives.

"We in the food industry should share practices and experiences that will ensure sustainability from an environmentally and economically sound point of view," said Nestle Philippines Inc. (NPI) head of agriculture department Joel Lumagbas in a statement.

Quality, nutritional value

The SAI platform aims to improve the quality, safety and nutritional value of agricultural products through concrete ways of increasing their nutritional content and safety. It addresses issues such as improving the farmers' productivity through livelihood programs, land and conservation of water, soil and power.

NPI's Nescafe introduced SAI to key players of the local food industry, government agencies, and nongovernment organizations through the First SAI Platform-Convention last November. It has SAI programs that touch base with coffee farmers.

"The SAI platform supports agricultural practices and agricultural production systems that preserve the future availability of current resources and enhance their efficiency," said SAI Europe representative Patrick Leheup, who stressed the importance of long-term and efficient alternative energy sources like blo



PROGRAMS to address concerns of farmers and consumers, and issues on environment and productlyity

supply of agricultural raw materials.

Preserving resources

Sustainable agriculture is aimed at preserving environmental resources and favors the use of renewable resources. The SAI platform focuses on issues involving the optimal use of natural resources and how to minimize the impact of agricultural activities on different geographical scales. Protecting land and water resources against improper use of fertilizers and pesticides is an example.

Then there's the issue of air poilution. Agriculture, particularly with the high use of fertilizers and pesticides, can cause air pollution which can adversely affect the environment, damage plants and con-

taminate water and soils. Sustainable agriculture is aimed at ensuring that energy inputs from non-renewable resources are minimized and that, whenever possible,

fuel are used.

The SAI platform likewise involves biodiversity, crop health and animal welfare. It is a massive undertaking that needs full support from the private sector, government and academe

"Progress here and elsewhere has exacted a heavy toll on food production," said Agriculture Undersecretary Jose Emmanuel Paras. "This is why we need to ensure the needs of the present without risking the needs of the future "

Concrete actions

Through Nescafe, NPI has come up with SAI-related practices. These include its promotion of Coffee-Based Sustainable Farming System (CBSFS) and the establishment of buying stations in key coffee-producing areas around the country.

The CBSFS is a planting method that helps farmers increase their income by allowing them to plant other crops alongside coffee

DA, SMC to put up corn trading centers

By Army R. Remo

THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULture and conglomerate San Miguel Corp. yesterday inked a memorandum of understanding to study the viability of putting up post harvest corn processing and trading centers worth P40 milhon each.

The proposed joint undertaking among the DA, SMC, National Agribusiness Corp. and San Miguel Purefoods seeks to stabilize corn prices and reduce drying and processing costs by haif.

Corn currently costs P10.50 to P13 a kilo, depending on the source.

The move is also aimed at cutting post-harvest losses to 5 percent from 15 percent, which is seen to result in an increased production of high quality corn and a higher income for corn farmers.

"These facilities will also serve as

venues where farmers can obtain technical assistance on adopting good agricultural practices, as well as processing and marketing of quality products," Agriculture Secretary Arthur C. Yap said.

Purefoods president Francisco Alejo III said during the signing that San Miguel imports some 150,000 metric tons of corn yearly.

San Miguel buys yellow corn for its broiler and aquatic feeds busi-

Alejo said these centers would help ensure the high quality and continuous supply of this commodity for San Miguel, which in turn, will provide corn farmers with a steady, assured market.

San Miguel will help put up the grain centers that would be equipped with silos, dryers and

For its part, DA would provide

technical and marketing assistance and aid to com farmers.

According to Agriculture Assistant Secretary Dennis Araullo, SMC is eyeing four sites for the grain centers, which include Isabela, Pangasman, Bataan and Bukidnon.

"We are targeting to put up 50 grains centers by 2010. At the end of the year, we are expecting to have a total of eight centers, "he added.

Meanwhile, a second MOU was signed between DA and San Miguel to study the feasibility of establishing a Carabao Dairy Farm, to accelerate the growth of the local dairy industry.

DA's Philippine Carabao Center and National Dairy Administration will provide the technical assistance.

Under the proposed initiative, the

SMC will supply animal feeds, operate the dairy farm and buy the Mile Abolines other a boundary of extension

People, Events Products

Editor Aries Espinosa

Asian consumers vote St. Luke's as 'Trusted Brand in Hospital Care'

CONSUMERS FROM SEVEN ASIAN COUNtries who participated in the Reader's Digest 9th annual survey of brand performance voted St. Luke's Medical Center as a Gold Trusted Brand in Hospital Care.

The 2007 Reader's Digest Trusted Brand Awards: The Ultimate Seal of Consumer Approval were based on 7,000 responses to questionnaires and telephone interviews from randomly selected readers in Hong Kong, India, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Taiwan, and Thailand. This year, Reader's Digest introduced three local product categories to ensure that local market specialties and trends are also reflected in the annual regional survey. Hospital Care is one of the three new categories in the survey.

In the survey, respondents were asked to nominate their most Trusted Brand in 43 product categories. They were then asked to assign a score for each brand for the six core qualities: trustworthiness, credibility of image, quality, value, how well each brand understands consumers' needs, and its ability to

Respondents rated brands based on the following questions: Is the brand safe for consumer use and does it consistently deliver on the promises it makes in its promotions?; Is the brand's identity believable and appropriate?; Are the brand's products or services

offer good value for money?; Does the brand respond to and satisfy customers' needs?; Does the brand regularly introduce new products, features or services?

Reader's Digest has two categories of awards-Gold and Plannum. The Gold Trusted Brand award goes to brands that score well above their competitors, while the Platinum Trusted Brand award is given for truly outstanding achievement and goes to competitors that have scored at least double that of their nearest rival. The Reader's Digest Trusted Brands survey is the only regional annual study to measure such a broad spectrum of consumer tastes.

"We thank Asian consumers who participated in the survey for recognizing St. Luke's commitment to excellent patient care," said Jose F. G. Ledesma, president and GEO, St. Luke's Medical Centez. "Rest assured that St. Luke's will work even harder to maintain its long tradition of excellence in providing quality patient care."

"This award further strengthens our resolve to be one of the top five healthcare providers in Asia," said Christine Liwanag, St. Luke's senior vice president for strategic marketing and corporate affairs. The synergy of state-of-the-art technology and topnotch medical expertise is synonymous with St.

well-made or well-designed?; Does the brand Luke's Medical Center-it is our brand, it is what St. Luke's is most known for."

"St. Luke's excellence is recognized the world over," said Dr. Joven Cuanang, St. Luke's senior vice president for medical affairs and medical director. "We are affiliated with New York-Presbytenan Hospital, Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons, Weill Cornell Medical College of Cornell University, and Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center. This latest award challenges us not to rest on our laurels, but to remain focused on providing excellent pa-

In November 2003, St. Luke's became the first hospital in the Philippines and only the second of 26 m Asia to be accredited by Joint Commission International (JCI), the world's most prestigious healthcare accreditation body, Last November 2006, JCI officially reactredited St. Luke's Medical Center, making it the first hospital in the Philippines and only the second in Asia to receive JCI re-accredita-

St. Luke's Heart Institute director emeritus Dr. Homobono Calleja, associate director for business development Rey Dimaano, and Liwanag received the award on behalf of Ledesma during the Reader's Digest Trusted Brand Awards Night held at the Peninsula

roduct FILES

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base, The Legend Villas has constructed new

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tion. A professional audio system with cable

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DHARY EUPPORTS MARTIN MISSERGE MILETONIE

The country's Concert King Martin Vievera (center), one of the original endorsers of leading wireless services provider Smart Communications Inc (Smart), recently marked his 25th year in the Philippine music industry and launched a new album, 'Milestones' In celebration of the top balladeer's stellar career, guests were

treated to an evening of good music at Martin's well-attended show at the Captain's Bar at The Mandarin Oriental Hotel in Makat City Photo shows Martin Nievera flanked by Smart executives Annie P Naval, acquisition, loyalty, and marketing services department head, and Danilo J. Mojica, wereless consumer division head.



ROTHRY CLUB OF MALOLOS HIVAS INDUCTION

Photo shows Corina Tengco-Bautista, leading the 9th Installa-Non of Officers and Turn-Over Ceremonies and the Induction of New Members of Rotary of Malo-

los Hiyas held last Aug. 24 Guest of Honor was Senator Noynoy Aquino while provincial Governor Jose-Ito R. Mendoza delivered the inspirational message

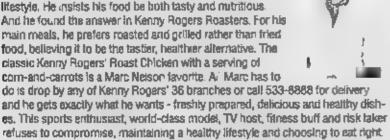
COCA-COLA'S BASKETBALL CLINIC WITH ALL PEEK

Last Aug. 25, the Coca-Cola Tigers Champions Basketball Clinic went to Falth Academy in Antipolo with the Coca-Cola Tigers' Ali Peek, John Artgo, Alex Cabagnot and Leo Avenido. Coke's series of basketball clinics are organized in collaboration with Coach E Basketball School. Through the clinics, Goca-Cola aims to teach kids basic basketball skills as well as the values of living a balanced, healthy and active lifestyle or HAL which include: eating a balanced diet, regular physical activity and proper hydration. All Peek, plctured here with ceach Eric Altamirano, founder of Coach E spoke about the importance of hydration.



MARC MELSON ENDORSES KEHMY ROGERS HOASTERS

Merc Nelson puts a premium on health and wellness. According to Marc, the keys to good health are disciplining one's self to exercise, eating right and living a healthy litestyle. He insists his food be both tasty and nutritious And he found the answer in Kenny Rogers Roasters. For his main meals, he prefers roasted and grilled rather than fried food, believing it to be the tastier, healther alternative. The classic Kenny Rogers' Roast Chicken with a serving of com-and-carrots is a Marc Nelson lavorite. All Marc has to



LATEST TECHNOLOGY IN RDADVING CATARACT

No wonder, he readily agreed to be the face behind Kenny Rogers Roasters.

American Eye Center, the country's leading ambulatory eye surgical facility, is now offerting to the public a 'nostitch cataract extraction surgery' using the state of the art Alcon efiniti Viston System,

an ophthaimic surgical instrument that provides the latest modes of cataract lens extraction using high performance ultrasound handpieces. It is intended for use in small incision cataract lens removal. thus allowing eye doctors to perform safe, fast and sutureless or 'no-

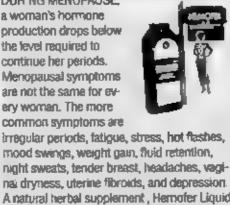


minutes. All these are done under eye drop anesthesia, eliminating the need for hospitalization. Accredited tar is located only at the 5th level of City. Contact numbers: 636-0762 or

Madison Streets, Mandaluyong City.

Handling menopause naturally

DUR NG MENOPAUSE a woman's hormone production drops below the fevel required to continue her periods. Menopausal symptoms are not the same for every woman. The more common symptoms are



nai dryness, uterine fibroids, and depression. A natural herbal supplement, Hernofer Liquid Herbat Tonic Supplement was recently introduced in the market to specifically help give relief to mature women experiencing the symptoms of menopause. It contains eight herbs that have been used Chinese traditional medicine for hundreds of years specifically for women. Working synergistically to help alleviate the symptoms of menopause, the combination of these herbs have also been used to treat the symptoms of painful or irregular. menstruation and has been known to help treat anemia, specially after birth. Hemofer Liquid Herbal Tonic Supplement is manufactured by Pangaoshou Phanmaceutical Co Ltd. in Guangzhou, China and exclusively distributed in the Philippines by Spring Vine Herbal Tracting Corp. It is now available in all Mercury Drugstores, Watson and other leading drugstores. For further information, text 0922-8203438 or 0927-4347632

Mezze's Tapas Bar opens today

DISCOVER AND EXPERIENCE FOR YOURSELF AN EXCITING AND AUTHENtic Mezze Tapas Bar featuring our guest chef Bingoy Remedios every weekendfrom 3 to 6 p.m. starting today. Enjoy Mezze's Tapas Callentes featuring the mouth watering Patatas Bravas, Salpicao Wraps (mini Gyros of salpicao with crisp romaine lettuce, mozzarella, ornons and garlic aioli), Squash Blossoms (stuffed with sausage, goat cheese and mozzarella), Spanakopeta (Filo pastry stuffed with spinach, basil and crumbled feta cheese), and Gambas and Croquetas. Or try their Tapas Frias which boasts of the sumptuous Mezedes (Hummus, baba ganoush and roasted pepper dip served with pita bread). Fig and Prosciutto (with meited blue cheese spiced Mediterranean fig compote and balsamic reduction), Tuna Tartare (Sashimi grade tuna spicad with chili aioli, fresh chives and sesame dressing). Smokad Salmon and Black Caviar (with onion dill crème fraich grated hard boiled egg, chopped red onions and chives), Fruit Frais Aux Fromage (tasty plate of fine European Cheese served with fresh fruits and melba toasts) and Shrimo Shooters (coldprached grawns with Bloody Mary cocktail sauce). All these healthy and delicious fare for only P350++ per head will certainly match well with some of the best Spanish Wines for an equally affordable P300++ per head. It will be a full 3 hours of savoring the best Tapas, excellent Spanish Wines and great company in a fashionable, healthy and uniquely Mezze style. Please call 728-8895 for more details and reservations.

Free load with Auction.ph's Barkada Text promo

AUCTION.PH, THE BEST BUYING AND SELLING ON THE WEB, GIVES AWAY MORE FREE LOAD BY extending the highly successful Barkada Text promo and reinforcing the platform by expanding its compatibility to other mobile networks. Previously, the promo was open to Globe subscribers only. Now, Barkada Text 3 will filtewise be applicable to all Smart and Sun subscribers. Globe, Smart and Sun subscribers can easily avail of the Barkada Text promo. Auction,ph members simply have to refer friends who will sign up for membership. They can refer friends by logging on to www.auction.ph, clicking on the Barkada Text banner and then following the simple instructions. Every successful referral earns members P30 worth of free load. More successful referrals mean more free load. Non-members are invited to take advantage of the promo as well by visiting the website and registering for free membership. The Barkada Text 2 promo yielded astounding results for Auction.ph. The positive response prompted the extension of the promo and its expansion to accommodate other networks. "We are extremely happy with the Barkada Text Promo and its newest installment, Barkada Text Promo 3 is an organic evolution of a successful campaign," says Rommet Santos, marketing officer of Auction.ph. For more information about the Barkada Text Promo, log on to www.auction.ph or call 637-4705.

GfK Custom Research Phils celebrates I 0th year

STARTING AS AUDITS AND SURVEYS WORLDWIDE (ASW), AN AMERICAN MARKET RESEARCH company first established in the Philippines in 1997 by Alicia Pascual, its first managing director, the company underwent four more name changes as a consequence of global research company mergers in the United States and Europe. ASW eventually changed its name to RoperASW, NOP World, GfK NOP and finally GfK Custom Research Philippines from 1997 to the present. Ninl Balderama, currently the managing director, is hosting a thanksgiving celebration for its valued clients and key suppliers on Oct. 2 at the Bahia of the Intercontinental Manila. There is a good roster of speakers from GfK HQ in Germany, GfK China as well as from the local client sectors who will talk about interesting topics during the program.

UP College of Engineering homecoming

CALLING ALL ALUMNI OF THE UP COLLEGE OF ENGINEER NG TO THE ANNUAL GRAND homecoming on Friday, Nov. 9, 6 p.m. at the NBC Tent, Fort Bonifacio Global City. Hosted by SIIver Jubitarian Class 1982, organized by the UP Atumnt engineers, and presented by Smart Communications. Reserve your tickets early to join the fun! For more details, contact Grace or Shane. at mailto.upae@engg.upd.edu.ph or call 436-1386 or 0919-4880748.

Orocan: providing the easy way in

FOR THOSE WHO ARE MOVING TO A NEW HOME, APARTMENT OR OFFICE, THE PROSPECT OF "starting anew" is a thrilling one. But a carefully planned transfer can make every bit of it fun and enjoyable. Orocan can help you move out - and go in the easy way. The acquisition of various items from Orocan's wide-product range can help you out in putting the "finishing touches" and adding highlights to your new home's look. Like a faithful home buddy, Orocan is there to ensure that you enjoy the entire process of moving out and moving in every step of the way. Whatever the season maybe, transferring or not, Orocan is the perfect home and office companion for you. Check out Orocan products at all leading department stores near you.

URCC University Challenge

THE URCC UNIVERSITY CHALLENGE IS ON ONCE AGAIN, WITH A BIGGER SHOWING OF FIGHTERS this time around, the University Challenge showcases amateur mixed martial artists from different universities in and around the Philippines clad in protective head-gear and fighting shorter rounds. Presented by San Mig Strong Ice, along with Yoshinoya, the 2nd URCC University Challenge new battlefield is Giorietta 3 Park, the date of the college - spectacle will be on Saturday, Sept. 29, at 6 p.m. Tickets available at the gate, or call - 0915-59467214 or visit www.urccmma.com.

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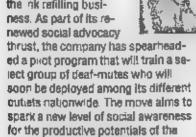
SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH (DENTIFIED THAT THE BEST SOURCES OF OMEGA-3 COMES FROM THE Harp Seal - a mammal found abundantly in the waters of Newfoundland and Labrador Maxi Cardio Harp Seal Oil processed in Newfoundland, Canada in a modern licensed facility, uses the highest quality seal oil obtained for the North Atlantic Harp Seal. Harp Seal Oil is rich in Omega-3 long chain polyunsaturated fatty acids (Pufa) including Docosahexaenoic Acid (DHA), Eicosapentaenoic Acid (EPA) and Docosapentaenoic Acid (DPA). In addition, there are considerable levels of squalane and Vitamin E. These compounds are essential in the development and maintenance of good health. Harp Seal Oil is the only supplement rich in natural DPA which can be 10 times greater in seal oil and is known to be a significant catalyst for EPA. Maid Cardio is now available at all leading drug stores nationwide. For any further inquiry, contact 02-8530163, 758-6287 or e-mail: hb-biotech@hotmail.com.

stitch' cataract surgery within 15

by Philhealth, the American Eye Cen-Shangri-La Plaza mali, Mandaluyong cellphone 0917-LASER ME

INK FOR LESS CREATES JOBS FOR DEAF-MUTES

Speech- and hearing-Impaired individuals can be just as productive in the work environment, according to Ink for Less - the country's biggest name in the rik refilling business. As part of its re-



physically-impaired. Giving them

employment opportunities elimi-

nates their propensity for inactivity and self-pity, which in turn reverses the trend of discrimination towards them. Photo shows teen superstar Heart Evangelista (extreme left) and ink for Less president and chair Am-

able 'Miguel' C. Aguituz IX (extreme

right) with some of the company's

successful deaf-mute trainees.



UCPB COMPLETES REPAIR OF BICOL PUBLIC SCHOOLS

UCPB turned over recently to officials of the Department of Education in Region 5 the fully repaired classrooms of the Bogtong Elementary School, Estanza Elementary School and Matanap Elementary School In

Legaspi City. The classrooms were heavily damaged by typhoon Reming. UCPS undertook the repair under its new 'Kabalikat sa Edukasyon' project, which aims to provide assistance to public schools in coconut areas.

Editor Cesar D. Mangawang



Drastic measure for serious condition

Text and photos by Charles E. Buban

EING OBESE OR OVERweight isn't just a vanity is-

In fact, these two conditions should be regarded as senious since they are now being closely linked to a staggering array of disabling and expensive diseases: Type 2 diabetes, cardiovascular disease, hypertension and stroke, and certain forms of can-

"They lead not only to poor figure but also potentially life-threatening diseases," reminded Dr. Hildegardes Dineros, a leading proponent of bariatric surgery in the Philippines and head of the Healing Hand Clinic at St. Luke's Medical Center in Quezon City.

Nothing else will work

In fact, Dineros reported that in the case of morbidly obese-those who are 50 percent to 100 percent above their their ideal body weight-nothing else will work for them, except agreeing to undergo a certain type of procedure called bariatric surgery.

Bariatric surgery refers to an operation performed to limit the amount of food that the stomach can hold either through gastric bypass, in which the digestive tract is surgically altered to literally bypass most of the stomach, or gastric banding, in which a large portion of the stomach is tied off, leaving only a small pouch.

Although this type of surgery should be considered a last resort, a growing number of doctors who treat weight loss with less invasive methods are now contending that barratric surgery is the only way for many morbidly obese patients to lose weight and keep it off

No longer a question

"As always, the risks of the operation must be balanced against the consequences of obesity and its attendant diseases. How-

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CONSTANT monitoring of weight is important to check on the progress.

ever, for people who are 91 to 136 kg over their ideal weight, it's no longer a question of diets or will power," the doctor said Such was the decision that one of his pa-

tients has agreed to: Over a year ago, the situation has gone bad-insofar as health is concerned-for Philippine Amateur Swimming Association president Mark Joseph, who at 150 kg has started to suffer high blood pressure, get fired easily as well as a host of other symp-

"Believe me, I exercised, too, tried all those weight-loss diets. In fact, I did lose some weight but the problem was keeping it as I eventually go back to being way over my ideal weight. It was then that I decided I need to take drastic measures so I went to Dr. Dineros who gave me several options,"

Eventually both decided for the laparoscopic adjustable gastric banding procedure (the Swedish adjustable gastric band variant that Johnson & Johnson/Ethicon Endo-Surgery makes), which is a purely restrictive surgical procedure in which a band is placed around the uppermost part of the stomach.

This band divides the stomach into two portions one small (near the esophagus) and one larger portion (that leads to the small intestine). Since the food goes directly to the smaller pouch, the patients feel full faster. As the name indicates, the band is adjustable. So if the rate of weight loss is not acceptable, the band can be adjusted Food digestion happens through normal digestion," Dineros explained.

He said this type of surgery is almost always perceived as an aggressive weightloss procedure, however, he reported that results from studies done throughout the years have shown that the procedure also caused resolution to diseases such as Type 2 d.abetes.

Lost more than 20 kg

"I've lost more than 20 kilos already and vet I could still eat all the foods that I like as well as exercise for as long as I like without feeling so tired so easily," said Joseph who is a former swimming champion

He added that there's not much restrictions after surgery as he could still do most of the physical activities.

Obesity has reached epidemic proportions globally, with more than 1 billion adults overweight-at least 300 million of them clinically obese-and is a major contributor to the global burden of chronic disease and disability.

Dineros said it could be due to today's diet composed of energy-dense, nutrientpoor foods with high levels of sugar and saturated fats, combined with reduced physica, activity he progress.

6 degrees of superheroes

WHAT DO YOU DO AT THE Centro Atomico Banloche and Instituto Balseiro in Argentina? Apparently, if you're physicist Pablo Gleiser, you have time to write a paper on the social networks within the Marvel Universe, home of superheroes such as Spiderman, Daredevil and the X-Men. (It's not known just how much Gleiser's choice of topic was influenced by the recent influx of Marvel beroes in movie theaters.)

Gleiser's paper, which was submitted to an online physics archive operated by Cornell University last Aug. 17, starts by referencing interest in studying networks within the realm of physics, but quickly moves on to the su perheroes. Personally I think a scientist who can write a physics paper that cites the Marvel Universe website once but four

de-

more

Online project

than a passing

times

serves

mention.

Gieiser's work is partially based on data sourced from the Marvel Chronology Project, which is unaffiliated with Marvel Comics. This online project-to call it a mere fan site seems to undermine all the work invested in here---catalogues every superhero and villain appearance in a Marvel comic book between 1961 and 2001, with more

detail than the official out, that's about 6,500 char made to appear sympathetic

ster have clusters. You might have 30 friends linked to you on one of these sites, but one of them might count you among his 30,000 friends. (By the way, British psychologist Will Reader, who studies the befriending process of these sites, has suggested that these "superfriends," as I call them, have so many social links because the electronic barriers mean less time and effort are needed to make and keep on ine friendships.)

By studying the Marvel Universe's social networks, Gleiser identified Captain America and Spiderman as the "superfriends" of the superhero network, as they each link to more characters than anyone else. Smaller clusters, he noted, link back to former X-Men member Beast, and the Fantastic Four's Thing

Villains, on the other hand, have smaller social networks. Bad guys, it seems, just don't trust many people enough to call them friends. (Those of you who may remember the



Massie Santos Ballon

"Superfriends" cartoons where the viliains formed the Legion of Doom should know this group doesn't count because they were DC Comics characters, not Marvel.)

Comics code

The lack of viliain ner works is also due to the Code Authority, Comics which was estab

lished in the United States m 1954 to make sure the comics being sold were age appropriate for their target audience children Though the

code has been modi fied several times over years though, to-day, only DC Comies and Archie

Comics still (ollow these rules. Marvel Cornecs stepped away from the code in 2001, choosing to develop its own ratings system and guidelines.

Some rules laid down by the CCA in 1954 are still in effect though. For example,

Marvel website character good must triumph over evil bios offer. As Gleiser points and the villams shouldn't be acters in 13,000 comic books. or role mode s the readers Online social networks would want to emulate This such as MySpace or Friend is why superheroes team up more often to defeat the bad guys The real question is, are the superheroes teaming up for appearances and a little shared glory, or are they doing it because the villain can't be defeated on his own?

Perhaps the answer lies with the Comics Code Authority, whose edict remains unchanged nearly 50 years after being issued. "While crimes and criminals may be portrayed for dramatic purposes, crimes wul never be presented in such a way as to inspire readers with a desire to imitate them nor will criminals be portrayed in such a manner as to inspire readers to emulate them." Villains can't be heroes, it seems, and if it takes a little teamwork to demonstrate that crime does not pay, then working together to defeat the forces of evil it only rein forces the message that good will always win out

E-mail the author at massie@massie.com.

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> - Hecel Zamora, entrepreneur, lost 134 pounds in 8 months.

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KIDS QUIZ Who's your daddy now?

By Emman Cena

TWO ISSUES BACK, WE HAD OUR TEST ON HOW ANIMALS call their mother and young.

Wait, there's more. How about those who fathered our young

Check your knowledge of the names by matching the name of the baby animal on the left with the name of his or her father on the right.

Best of luck kiddos!

YOUNG **FATHER** a) reynard 1 larva (bee) b) tiercal 2. kid (goat) 3. cub (fox) c) boar 4. lambkin (sheep) d) gander a) buck 6. p giet (pig) 6. cygnet (swan) f) drone д) реасоск 7 gosling (goose) B kit (ferret) h) ram 9. peachick (peafowl) i) hob J) cob 10. eyas (hawk)

Score: 1-4 Good; 5-7 Very Good; 8-10 Excellent

Answers: 1-1, 2-6, 3-8, 4-h, 5-c, 6-1, 7-d, 8-1, 9-g, 10-b

SCIENCE/HEALTH

Australian expert talks about cervical cancer vaccine

By Tessa R. Salazar

USTRALIAN GYN- ECOlogical oncologist Dr. Gerry Waine of the Sydney Westmead Hospital visited Manila through the invitation of MSD (Merck Sharpe & Dohme) and had a one-on-one interview with INQUIRER Science/Health about the benefits of cervical cancer vaccine.

Q. You're a staunch advocate of cervical cancer vaccine in Australia. Are your children vaccinated already?

My daughter and my son. Even males?

My son is 24 years old He's off label but! think human papilloma virus (HPV) infection in men is very important because it (HPV in men) transmits the infection to women. But the disease is predominant in women. So that's one of the reasons the Australian government vaccinates only women at the moment, but if you're being logical about it, you have to vaccinate both groups to try and reduce the infection. Are you also vaccinated?

No. I'm too old (laughs). Well, I think it is important to understand that the vaccine is most useful sooner after starting sexual ac-

tivity. The best time to get the vaccine is in young adolescents before they are sexually

MOTHERS ARE ALWAYS THE

strength and light of a home,

and the embodiment of love

This sense of love is shown in

what a woman does, with pas-

sion in aspects of life, most espe-

cially in breastfeeding her child.

The mother's best interest is for

a healthy and secured future for

the child given this very act. Ev-

ery nutrient that the infant takes

is a milestone of helping her

child be equipped in his first

breath of life. From the moment

the child latches on to his moth-

er's breast to feed, the child finds

Tragically in this day and age,

mothers of any social stature

seem to be pushed by catchy and

transparently cheery commer-

cials with their own brand mas-

cots and musical jungles to buy

formula milk instead of giving

breast milk. They seem to just

shrug a shoulder about it and not

bother about the payback that

comfort and serenity.

By Julia Navasero



DR. Walne is behind the government funded mass immunization in Australia. Today, Australian children and young adults (between the ages 12-26 years old) are being immunized for free.

A new atudy by the National Cancer Institute has revealed that a seaweed extract called carrageenan (derived from red algae that strongly inhibits HPV from attaching to human cells, preventing it from entering and infecting the cells) can prevent HPV Please comment.

That's very interesting, It's very much a research setting at the moment. By inserting it into the vagina, it stops the infection. But it's like a condom, you have to use it every time. It doesn't make the infection go away, it just blocks the infection.

I heard it's also a lubricant

A breastfeeding romance novel

breastfeeding can really aid chil-

dren more than you'll ever know.

To continue the breastfeeding

movement, the Department of

Health (DoH)/World Health Or-

ganization launched "Bukal sa

Dibd.b" by Maia Jose. That 138-

page book is dedicated to sup-

porters of breastfeeding. And

hopefully, according to Health

Secretary Dr. Francisco Duque

III, "this book will inspire moth-

ers to get back to the culture of

positive role model as she faces

various life challenges as a

woman, and as an empowered in-

dividual. This work in print is an-

other valuable addmon to the

treasure chest of knowledge and

tect and defend human

rights sexual and reproductive

rights among them—of every Fil-

ipino woman, and young person,"

writes Suneeta Mukherjee, repre-

Mayang, the heroine is a

For supporters

breastfeeding?

it only works by trapping the virus every time. It's not like you take it once and then get protection, unlike the vaccine where you

administer it and you get lifetime protection.

Critics say clinical studies are engineered to succeed and that real-world results would be the real gauge. How true is this observation?

The trials were conducted really to show that the vaccine was safe and effective and that's what gets licensing of the trials. Once it does go out to the real world, things may be different but there are monitoring mechanisms in place in many countries to see the effectiveness. Out of 10 million doses in jected already in Northern America, there's a very close monitoring of safety profiles and side effects, and the monitoring has really shown no significant problems with

Saving Malang's sight

THE MAN'S WORK IS A REflection of his humility and positive outlook in life. World-renowned Filipino painter Mauro Malang Santos has a keen eye for beauty and a rare gift of being able to transform even the mundane to true works of art. With women and the urban landscape as his favorite subjects, the prolific neo-realist painter romances the canvass with his playful use of light and shadow using a kaleidoscope of colors rendered in abstract form with a uniquely Filipino touch

In 2006, with Malang nearing his eighth decade of life, cataract threatened to rob the Filipino icon of his vision. He went to the international Eye Institute at St. Luke's Medical Center where the Institute's Director Dr. Noel Chua recommended outpatient cataract surgery.

Cataract removal

In a cutting-edge procedure called phacoemulsification, Dr. Chua used ultrasonic vibration to shatter and break up the cataract in Malang's eye into small pieces, thereby making its removal easier. He then implanted a flexible intraocular lens to replace the lens in Malang's eye that had been clouded over by the cataract. To eliminate the need for stitches, Dr. Chua used a flexible intraocular lens that can be implanted through a very small incision The 30-minute procedure was done under local anesthesia with Maiang awake throughout the operation

The ultramodern procedure restored Malang's vision and, after two weeks, enabled him to resume his normal painting activities. The artist was so impressed with the results of the surgery that he returned to St. Luke's and successfully underwent the same procedure for his other eye.

"Now, I can paint even without my eyeglasses," Malang says.

Improving healthcare

St. Luke's International Eye Institute is another example of how technology and constant monitoring of treatment outcomes can dramatically improve healthcare. It is staffed by experts extensively trained in the latest ophthal mologic and microsurgical procedures and who are equipped with the most modern instruments and appara-

Combining topnotch exper-



ty in the country where the

procedure is performed regu-

larly. Recently, the country's

first ex-vivo expansion of lim-

bal stem cell transplant was

CAREPLUS

also done at the Institute. St. Luke's International Eye Institute is also the first and only such facility in the country that maintains a comprehensive Cataract Databank to continuously enhance the safety and accuracy of cataract surgery outcomes. The information culled from the databank helps improve the efficacy and safety of fu-

image model

ture cataract surgeries.

After St. Luke's doctors and technology helped restore his vision, Malang helped St Luke's come up with a marketing communication approach that truly "connected" with the Filipino public. The talented artist had graciously agreed to be the "image model" in our recent campaign to introduce a more comprehensive and modern International Eye institute.

A recipient of many awards including the Ten Outstanding Young Men of the Philippines in 1963, Malang and his winning ways may have rubbed off on our campaign. During the recently held 2nd Integrated Marketing Communication Effectiveness Awards, St. Luke's won two awards, one of which was the Best New Service Brand Introduction award for the international Eye Institute campaign

in celebration of its 20th anniversary, St. Luke's International Eye Institute is hosting the 1st SLMC-IEI Internanonal Eye Symposium today until tomorrow at Edsa Shangri-La in Mandaluyong City, with world-renowned experts in ophthalmology as speakers.

For feedback, please e-mail the Healthcare Technology and Outcomes Information Bureau

Improved health for better life behind bars

practice that would promote, pro- cepts. They are, in fact, very com-

THE UNITED NATIONS REPORT ON HU- of the prisoners under their care." man rights practices released last year reveals that jalls in the country were overcrowded, fell short of basic infrastructure and provided prisoners with madequate food. It adds that the lack in potable water and poor ventilation in jails have been causing health problems among prisoners including minors.

With majority of the prisoners belonging to the poorest of the poor and considered as among the most neglected in the society, PHAPCares Foundation, an affiliate of the Pharmaceutical and Healthcare Association of the Philippines, joins hands with the Catholic Bishop Conference of the Philippines Episcopal Commission on Prison Pastoral Care (CBCP-ECPPC) in helping unprove the plight of Filipino prisoners.

Total medicine needs

"PHAPCares is mandated to donate to all poor and disadvantaged Filipinos, including prisoners as in the case of CBCP's program. CBCP has a solid and holistic program for prisoners which includes healthcare," says Glecy Cuenco, executive director of PHAP-Cares Foundation, "But because they have budget constraints, CBCP cannot always provide for the total medicine requirements sential medicines but ethical (or prescrip-

CBCP-ECPPC executive secretary Rodolfo Diamante says insufficient government provisions for the prisoners resulted in subhuman living and health conditions for the detainees. Worse, the prevalent apathy of people in general has tolerated the difficulnes of those behind bars.

The basic necessities of life should be available to all irregardless of their status in life whether they have committed wrong. Prisoners are deprived of that," Diamante says.

The Bureau of Corrections, which runs the seven national prisons in the country, accounts for a total of 33,000 prisoners under their custody while records from the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology shows that there are close to 60,000 detainees under their care

Diamante observes that prisoners are usually prone to suffer from skin diseases, fever, coughs, colds, diarrhea and hypertension. Sick prisoners are also not isolated from the rest of the detainees, making all of them susceptible to acquiring communicable diseases. Just as there is a need for doctors and health workers, Diamante stresses the constant requirement not only for es-

tion) medicines as well.

sentative of the United Nations Jean-Marc Olivé, former WHO

Philippines.

Fund for Population Activities.

"Some may think that ro-

mance and infant breastfeeding

are not very compatible con-

plementary because genuine ro-

mance, after all, is about creating

a loving family in which infant

breastfeeding is a beautiful and

natural development," says Dr.

Complementary

Anti-TB drugs

Responding to the call for more medicines, PHAPCares is eyeing a longterm partnership with CBCP-ECPPC to ensure a continuing flow of donations to prisoners nationwide. Recently, PHAPCares successfully distributed essential medicines and anti-tuberculosis medicines to prisoners through the CBCP-ECPPC

country representative in the

feeding romance novel written

by Maia Jose, a well-known ro-

mance author in the Philippines.

Since 1992, she has over 90 best

selling romance paperback titles.

"Bukal sa Dibdib" is now being

distributed by DOH/WHO to

communities, health centers and

"Bukal sa Dibdib" is a breast-

in the meantime, PHAPCares is campaigning for additional anti-TB medicine donations from pharmaceutical and healthcare member institutions. This, after the CBCP-ECPPC appealed for more anti-TB drugs for about 100 prisoners at the lhawig Prison and Penal Farm in Palawan. Recipients of the first batch of anti-TB drugs attest to the effectiveness of the donated medicines, prompting them to request for another batch of medication

"It is a big contribution if PHAPCares can fill in the gaps in terms of the required medicines for our sick inmates. That is a very big help because the government is not able to provide or the government is not able to meet the medical requirements of the prisoners," Diamante explains.



Destruction can save lives, 2004 Nobel Prize winner says

WE HEAR ABOUT DNA, SUCH AS THE that the proteins being created by our Human Genome Project or genetically modified foods. On TV, "CSI (Crime Scene Investigation)" and "Soco (Scene of the Crime Operatives)" use DNA techniques to fight crime. But many scientists are now moving from DNA to proteins, says David Peralta, lecturer at the Ateneo de Manila University Chemistry Department, If DNA is a code, then proteins are the message the code unravels. Here Peralta relates the intriguing role proteins play in our lives

When we hear "protein," we usually think of meat. But proteins are more than the flesh we eat. They are present in living things—animals, plants, even viruses. We have heard that the genetic codes of humans and chimpanzees are 98 percent similar Moreover, humans all share the human genome. So why do we differ in looks and abilities? Why do we have different growth patterns and diseases? The simplest answer would be

bodies based on our codes differ. The times, locations and conditions in which the proteins are produced differ, even though the code is generally the same.

Proteins have many uses: for structure and motion (hair and biceps), for energy (muscles), for protection (mucus formed during colds), as substance-factories (we all grow from a single cell), and for catalysis, speeding up thousands of reactions happening in our bodies (energy from eating).

The kiss of death

Several Nobel Prizes have been awarded to studies involving proteins. In 2004, the Chemistry Nobel went to Doctors Aaron Ciechanover, Avram Hershko and Irwin Rose for their discovery of "ubiquitin-mediated protein degradation." Simply put, they studied how and why proteins are broken down by cells.

in the past, many researchers focused on explaining how and why proteins are

EUREKA! Qиевпа N. Lee-Chua

produced. But these three scientists went against the flow and decided to study protein desiruction instead.

Cells are efficient factories where proteins are created and broken down at very fast rates. When a protein needs to be broken down, it is labeled. A specific molecule is attached to it, condemning .t. to death, so to speak. This label is another protein called ubiquitin, from the Latin ubique meaning "everywhere." Only when a protein has been labeled several times do waste disposal machines recognize and destroy it, chopping it up into small pieces. The ubiquitin label is released again by the protein

shortly before its death.

But why do proteins need to die in the first place? Well, sometimes hard-headed proteins stay and continue their functions even if they should not be there anymore, leading to dreadful effects. For instance, plants need to reject their own pollen because self-pollmation leads to a decline in diversity and eventually, ex-

Proteins are linked to disease. When cells divide, pairs of chromosomes must separate with the help of a cutting protein. If they do not separate, or there is incorrect division, miscarriage may oc-cur, or an extra chromosome may ap-pear, leading to Down's syndrome. Or when proteins don't fold correctly, they can lead to cystic fibrosis.

Certain proteins may lead to more cell division—an ill effect in the case of cancer cells. But other proteins prevent the spread of cancer. The survival of these good and bad proteins and the chances of cancer depend on the workings of the

ubiquitin pathway. Everywhere we have protein activity that can go wrong, we have the ubiquitin-mechanism present, hence its name.

Nobel Prize winner in RP

Dr. Ciechanover, based in Haifa, Israel, earned his Doctor's degrees in Medicine and Biology at the University of Jerusalem and the Israel Institute of Technology (Technicon) respectively. He is a Professor at the Center for Cancer and Vascular Biology and the Rappaport Faculty of Medicine and Research Institute at the Technicon.

Next year, Dr. Giechanover and other Nobel Laureates and scientists will come to the Philippines to share their thoughts about science, society and innovation, To join the Tenth Eurasia Conferences on Chemical Sciences at the Philippine International Convention Center on Jan. 7-11, 2008, visit http://eurasi achem10 philippinechem.org or email eurasiachem10@yahoo.com

BUISINESS

Travel group bats for tourism incentives

By Ronnel W. Domingo

DAVAO CITY - AN UMBRELLA ORGANI zation of local travei agencies called on Congress to pass the so-called Tourism Bill which would create "tourism enterprise zones," while lamenting the lack of



PTAA rues lack of gov't support

tangible support from government.

Jose C. Clemente III, president of the Philippine Travel Agencies Association (PTAA), said the group felt that the gov-

ernment was merely "paying lip service" to the industry despite the touted successes of the Department of Tourism in its campaign to increase visitor arrivals recently.

The PTAA, which groups about 490 travel agencies, held on Thursday its general membership meeting at the Marco Polo hotel in this largest city of Mindanao.

Before the meeting started, Clemente told reporters the industry needed such a law, which industry players believe would immediately answer their urgent concerns.

He said that aside from the creation of tourism ecozones, the Tourism Bill provides for the the reorganization and rationalization of the Department of Tourism; assures funding for the DOT and its attached agencies; and gives incentives for the

lated material for tourism facilities.

Marciano Ragaza, PTAA's immediate past president, said that Malacañang had actually certified the measure as a priority bill "but nobody actually pushed for its passage."

"In fact, the Department of Finance objected to it because it felt that the incentives provided in the bill were too generous," said Ragaza. "How can a department object to what the President certified as a priority bill?"

Also, Clemente said the bill, which was approved by the Senate, lacked support in the House of Representatives.

"We strongly pushed for the bill in the hope that it would be passed before the previous Congress adjourned," he added. "But Congress did not even achieve a quorum when the bill was up for plenary discussion."

This clearly showed that some people in government do not really understand this industry and what it is bring ing to the table," the PTAA chief said.

He said tourism was, in fact, an in-

TOURISTS relax along the world-famous Boracay beachline. The PTAA says tourism could grow much faster with government support.

bring in much revenue in a relatively short period of time compared to manufacturing and other enterprises.

Further, Clemente said PTAA supports moves to implement an "open skies" policy without which the growth of tourism was hampered.

turn away visitors despite strong demand for Philippine destinations because of the lack of flights to the country, he said.

Clemente added that landing costs and other aviation fees must be lowered and red tape reduced so that more airlines would be encouraged to



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SM expands planned mall in Naga City

> By Juan Escandor Jr. Inquirer Southern Luzon

NAGA CITY-THE BUILDING OF AN SM branch in this city has been delayed after the country's largest mall chain decided to redesign the establishment from a "hypermart" to a "full ma.l."

Glen Ang, assistant vice president for SM South Region, told the local Sangguniang Panlunsod that the change of design conforms with their expectations that the city stands as the center of trade in the

Ang explained that the original hypermart designed for Naga City branch would have carried 10-20 percent nonfood items with the balance being food items

But he said that, upon review, it was decided that the hypermart be redesigned into a "full mail" where the establishment is divided into separate sections for food, nonfood items, furniture, accessories and other items

Ang revealed that the Naga SM Mall, which will start construction in the fourth quarter of 2008, will be a two-story building with a total area of 46,000 square meters.

Detailing further the actual floor area of the mall, he said the first and second floors will have an equal floor areas of 21,000 sq.

Ang added they would also construct a separate building at the back of the mall, which is an 18,000-sq m. car park

He said the establishment will occupy a total area of 61,000 sq. m. m a leased lot at the Central Business District II.

Engineer Anthony Paule, chief designer of the SM for 45 years, sa.d it would take 10 months to complete the construction of the building, in addition to three months spent for the preparation of documents and per mits for its construction.

proposed SM branch here came after top management saw the need to provide compiete services to the city like the branches in Davao, Lucena, Lipa and Batangas.

Paule said the change of design of the

Ang did not give specific months for the construction and completion of the mall

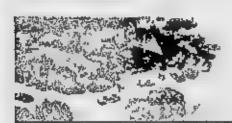
Meanwhile, Tar.ac City Mayor Genarc Mendoza has denied reports that the construction of an SM mall on a 33,996-sq. m. lot in Barangay San Roque in this city is already a "done deal "

The project is facing opposition from var ious sectors which claim that the giant mall's entry in the city would threaten local business establishments, and that its construction on the proposed site would cause flood and traffic problems.

"If you look at the records, there is no mayor's permit yet and the business application is not yet approved because we are still consulting with the people," Mendoza said.

He said before the business can be issued a mayor's permit to operate, the manage ment of SM should first secure important requirements such as an environmentaclearance certificate from the Environmen tal Management Bureau of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

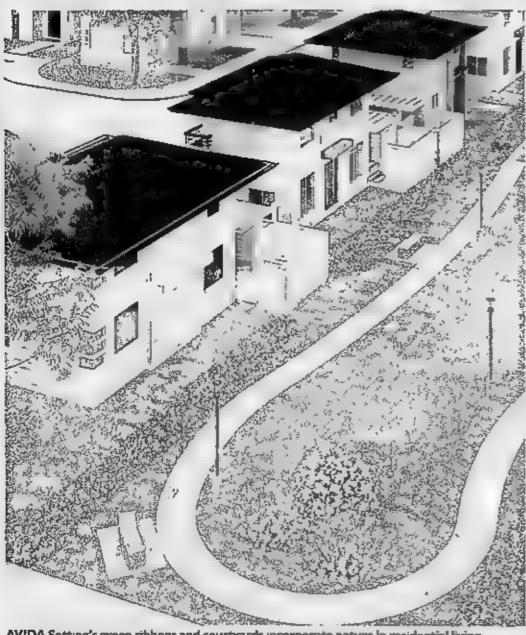
What the city government has, Mendoz. said, is an application by the Chinese-Fi. ipino owner of the proposed site for its reclassification from an agricultural to a commercial area. With a report from Russell Arador, Inquirer Central Luzon



ROPERTY

Editor Cesar D. Mangawang

Mammoth urban hub to showcase 3 Ayala residential brands



AVIDA Setting's green ribbons and courtyards incorporate nature in residential living.

By Tessa R. Salazar

THE THREE RESIDENTIAL partnership with the Yulo family. brands of Avala Land will locate in the soon-to-rise urban hub Nuvali in Laguna, hyped as the new gateway of Region 4.

The magnitude of Nuvali-a planne mixed use hub that will utilize urban designs and "green" developments-is nothing short of impressive. It's eight times that of the Makati Central Business District at 1,600 hectares, and it is expected to play a significant role in the economic destiny of Region 4 and in Manila. The centerpiece of all this will be the residential companies of Ayala Land-Ayala Land Premier, Community innovations and Avida.

The residential developments, however, will just be one of the components of Nuvali There will also be commercial and retail districts and educational institutions. Xavier School, for instance, will be operational here by 2012.

A city all its own

Nuvali, in many ways, can be considered

a city all its own.

This will be a "city" with an integrated mix of residential, retail and office areas. People can walk, bake or take "water taxis" to most places within the community. The man-made lake would also serve as a fire reserve for the area.

Rex Mendoza, semor vice president of Ayala Land, said Nuvali would be the biggest development of Ayala Land and most seamless in terms of integration. "It's really the whole concept of live, work, play, not in the context of selling it but in the context of designing it."

"It's a new metropolis. We feel that over time, it will stand out on its own. So it's going to be self nurturing in the end. For the moment, people will still make decisions as to commuting, staying in that place, but later on it will be self sustaining," Mendoza envisions.

3 residential areas

Abno will be Ayala Land Premier property within Nuvali. This will be followed by Treveia, a Community Innovations development. Avida Settings would be the third residential district. These residential areas are described as "open but very exclusive."

Mendoza said that all three will have clear target markets. He cited Abrio, which will offer its own at P10,000 per square meter, with an 800-sq-m minimum.

"It's huge, right? And you also get a road network the size of Ayala Avenue with pedestrian-friendly walkways, tree-lined streets and bike anes."

During ALPs Sept. 26 presscon, Mendoza said "this is going to be the project where we will be having the greatest tree ratio. We really want to make this very green. We're going to be planting."

The property, which is just off the Sta. Rosa-Tagaytay road near Paseo de Sta. Rosa

commercial center, has been acquired by Ayala Land since 1993 and is owned in

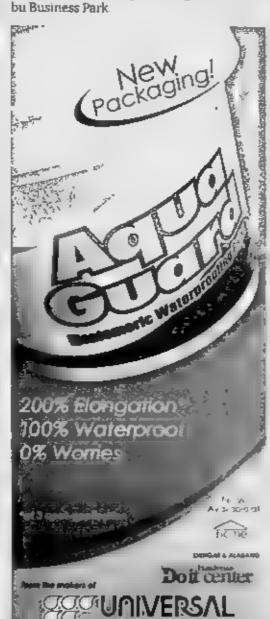
Outside Nuvali are other existing Ayala subdivisions such as Sta. Rosa Estates, West Grove and Verdana Homes Mamplasan of Community Innovations.

Market needs

Community Innovations' Trevela will be launched mid-October 2007. Dan Abando, president of Community Innovations, said "through the years, we have been taught by Ayala Land to give due diligence to the details to what the market needs-assessing their hiestyle, behavior-so Ayala will be able to provide a product that will be appropriate for the market."

When asked about the physical challenge on the design of the property, Abando replied: "If there are any physical challenges, we've overcome them already. I think the challenge now is to be able to introduce new products and to educate the market on how we want the sustainability thrust of Nuvali to be implemented."

Nuvali will be developed by Ayala Land, the same developers of the Makati CBD, Bonifacio Global City, Alabang and the Ce-

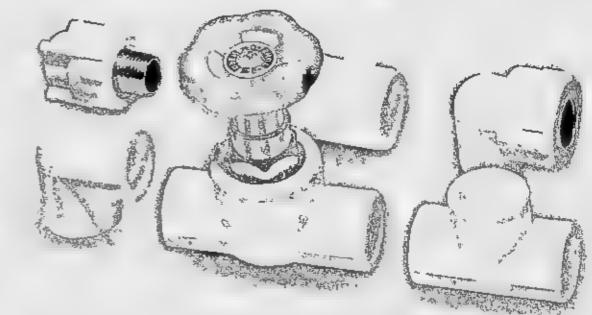


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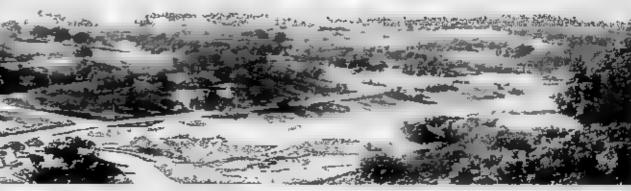
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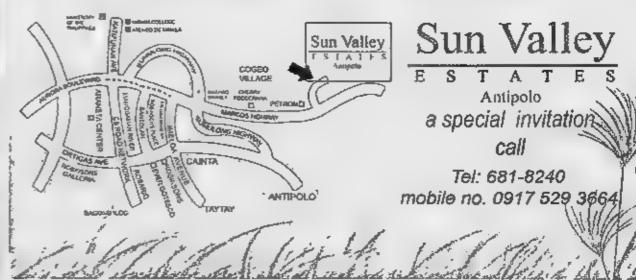
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PROPERTY

ELEGANT line highlighted in Villeroy & Boch's Source-Flow 1hole muser

By Charles E. Buban

ONSUMERS these days are increasingly yearning for a "feelgood" space in their homes-an area where they could not only nourish their body but also their soul. For them, such a place could only be their bathroom.

"The bathroom has indeed come a long way from being purely functional. It is now being viewed as a place of relexapon, and consumers are investing more time and money to create a place of seclusion and escape," promised 1 Steve Courso, GM of Dombracht, manufacturer of high-quality bathroom fittings and accessories from Germany.

Dombracht is among the high-end lines that recently become available in the Philippines through a globally acclaimed sanitation ware distributed by Hamburg International Sales Corp.

Aside from Dombract, Hambury International Sales' newly opened showroom in Makati (ground floor of BMC Centre, Paseo de Magallanes) feature



DORNBRACT and Villerey & Both shower set collection on display at the Makati showroom

other top-of-the-line brands like Blanco, Villeroy & Boch and Keuco.

Carefully selected

"We have carefully selected some of the world's best sanitary ware ranges.



VILLEROY & Boch Nagano washbasin with vanity unit

These brands offer the best in terms of functionality, durability and beauty," said Hamburg International Sales CEO Horst Kessler von Sprengeisen.

He cited as an example Villeroy & Boch's 2007 collections that offer plo-



shower set features metal fittings and accessories, which are available in either polished chrome or platinum matte

neering concept designs for daily wellbeing and optimum rest.

These latest collections from Villeroy & Boch promise to set strong interior design trends: private bathroom transforms into an all-round room for pampering the mind, body and soul

In Villeroy & Boch's Lulu line of bath fixtures and accessories for example (which includes everything from a drinking glass to towel holders to a single-lever basin mover with raised base), the metal fittings and accessories are

available in either a polished chrome or platinum matte finish, which successfully combines the functions of a beauty salon, fitness room and dressing room.

80 years

Another interesting brand that Hamburg International Sales is carrying is Blanco, a German brand that has been around for more than 80 years.

It offers several sink designs in attractive colors, plus a wide selection of good quality mixer taps, waste separation systems and shining accessories.

By mixing simple modern forms with traditional spirit and grace, Keuco is another German brand of bathroom furni ture that bridges eras with a timeless

"The brand is committed to design and quality that customers can surely rely on for years. Trends and fashion can change but Keuco will remain committed to stylish innovative design," Von Sprengeisen said

Take for example Keuco's Edition Palais that offer a touch of opulence and elegance from a bygone era, yet able to deliver all the conveniences of contemporary interior design.

Edition Palais uses a sumptuous top quality materials such as porcelain and wood, smooth elegant surfaces with platinum appearance fittings and accessories, and master craftsmanship.

"I believe that it's best to view these collections in our showrooms. Consumers who are renovating their houses or those planning to refurbish their bathroom will discover that a bathroom could also become a place animated by considerations of wellness, style and atmosphere," said Von Sprengeisen.

Be a lot closer to your dream home at CrownAsia's Valenza

EVERYONE DREAMS OF FINDING A HOME need of ample space to grow. Now, lots-only that complements their lifestyle, a suitable packages are offered to give more families place to begin their families, a comfortable yet conveniently accessible sanctuary from the workplace, and a veritable investment for their hard-earned money. Keeping these dreams in mind, CrownAsia has carefully

chosen the highly developed and still fast-progressing Laguna to become the home of its thriving 10-hectare exclusive property, Valenza, located right in the heart of Sta-Rosa. This quaint Italianthemed community is where style and practicality converge in one grand design.

A proud affiliate of Vista Land & Lifescapes Inc. CrownAsia is the country's ploneer developer of masterplanned, themed enclaves with belitting style while re- BEGIN your own family and aming within the reach of Filipino families. Vista Land the secured community of is the Philippines' largest Valenza.

ferent lifestyles across the country.

Suitable home

Everyone can find a sustable home at Valenza, whether you're single and intent on building a successful career, a young couple beginning a new life, or a family in

the opportunity to acquire a property of their own and start building an Italian-inspired residence tailor-fit to your unique lifestyle and specific living requirements. The minimum 121-square-meter lot-only

package at P916,726 is made more attainable through a monthly amortization of as low as P5,665 With a lumited number of home and lot and ot-only packages totaled at 300, residents are assured of exclusivity and a generous expanse of greens.

As a lived-in community, you can spend afternoons visiting with neighbors while your kids can frolic around Valenza's secure grounds with other children. The neighborhood will feature te amenities and facilities for everyday recreation such as a multipurpose hall

homebuilder offering homes for gatherings and private for all income segments and catering to difand children's playground

Good location

watch your children grow in

Soon, Valenza will have its own commercial area for the residents' shopping convenience. Meanwhile, a number of commercial complexes are already found in Laguna



PICTURE a relaxed life of comfort and styling awaiting you.

like SM Sta. Rosa, Robinsons Sta. Rosa, Rustan's, and Paseo de Sta Rosa

Children can get the best education from top institutions nearby like the Brent, Don Bosco, St. Scholastica, and De La Salle University. There are also neighboring medical facilities such as the Calamba Medical Center, Calamba Doctor's Hospital, and Southern Luzon Medical Center & Hospital

As the first province found south of Metro Manila, one can quickly get to and from the business and commercial districts in the metropolis. Alabang is just a few minutes away. From the South Luzon Expressway, take Sta. Rosa Exit and reach Valenza in 10 minutes.

With its tranquil environs, booming economy and strategic road network, Sta Rosa becomes a more desirable place to set-Le down in with the rise of GrownAsia's Valenza. Interested parties may call 873-1614 and 871-8412, or log on to www.crownasia.com.ph

Mang Leonardo: inspiration to labor

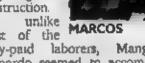
ONE BENEFIT OF BEING AN architect is being able to interact with people from all walks of hie The challenge is to observe, study and learn their interests and dreams in order to recognize their needs, particularly if they want you to design a home for them.

The gamut of personauties includes the sophisticated CEO to the unschooled laborer. One must familiarize oneself with how people think and how they work so as to understand both their needs and their capacity. For laborers or construction workers, for example, it is good to know their level of skill and enthusiasm for work to be able to max.mize their potential. Hearing their stories could likewise be an enriching experience

One interesting example is someone my

chanced upon while building his chalet in Вадию. He hired stoneworker named Leonardo Marcos work in the early stages of construction.

most of the daily-paid laborers, Mang Leonardo seemed to accomplish more than most... despite his handicap



A good example

Mang Leonardo contracted polio when he was 10 years old. Today, at 40, he cannot use his right hand, so he uses his foot instead. He was born to and raised in a poor family in the Mountain Province where life is not always easy. Like everyone else he has to earn a living, especially since he is married and supports a

However, Mang Leonardo may have accomplished more in his lifetime than most of as by being a good example. He continues to be an inspiration for his co-laborers who have no good reason to stay idle after seeing him doing so much

Beggars proliferate

Along the roads of Metro Manila, beggars pro.iferate, cordegusman@yuhoo.com.

LIVING ARCHITECTURE Marcos de Guzman Jr.

most of them healthier than Mang Leonardo. They take advantage of kind-hearted individuals, some of whom are coerced into alms-giving by their persistent knocking on car windows or by sermonizing priests. But are we really helping them by giving? Or are we encouraging them to beg even more and stop working since begging seems more reward-

The beggars expose the little babies they tote around to extreme danger. They encourage the scrawniest toddlers to ply

their Wares amid whizzing traffic. Aren't we doing an mastice like those Mang Leonardo and millions of Pilipinos who are working hard to make a hving, mercly giving to those who choose to re-

main idle?

During a visit to the depressed areas, you may see many well and able bodied individuals doing nothing but sharing a mid-morning drink, playing basketball at street comers, or probably engaged in some mischlef is this the effect of having relatives working abroad? Are these people the recipients of the fruits of someone else's abor?

The Bible in 2Thesalonians 10 states that "If anyone is not willing to work, neither should that one est." The text is too simple to be misinter-

The current construction and real estate boom we are experiencing offers a lot of job opportunities. Although the work is not easy, it is there for those who truly seek it. We need more determined workers like Mang Leonardo. The strength of his will is an inspiration to all.

For comments e-mail to mar-

Manhattan Garden City launches new 'green' phase

PROPERTY GIANT MEGAWORLD CORP, off and filtering pollutants and carbon dioxthe country's undisputed leader in residential condominium and business process outsourcing (BPO) building developments, will be launching soon the much-awaited new "green phase" of Manhattan Garden City inside the Araneta Center to be called the Manhattan Parkview Residence.

In a statement, Megaworld Central Properties Inc. president Anthony Charlemagne Yu thanked the investing public and aspiring homeowners for the tremendous success of Manhattan Garden City's first three towers, which are very near sold-out status. He noted that the three-tower Manhattan Parkview will be another "first-of-its-kind" residential building in the long list of the company's pioneering projects due to its tropical landscaping and the use of the innovative green rooftop development concept.

Green rooftop

The green rooftop, Yu said, insulates the building from both heat and cold, promoting energy conservation and improving the level of oxygen in the surrounding area.

"Aside from the benefits it gives to the building, it also greatly contributes to human comfort and health within an urban area like the Araneta Center by reducing urban surface temperatures, storm water run-

ide out of the air," Yu pointed out

The landscaping of Manhattan Parkview,

meanwhile, is generally in line with the overall concept of its outdoor development plan, which features a walkable and interconnected area with emphasis on greens and open spaces

"A lot of people desire a place that provides a natural relief from the stresses of life, and the best place to get this kind of feeling is an outdoor sanctuary that has nature at its best offering-the chance to unwind, rest and rejuvenate. The greens would serve as its medium in achieving this purpose," Yu added.



MANHATTAN Parkview's grand transfer pavilion features a safe and secure hotel-style

Relaxing experience

Manhattan Parkview's nature park experience is replete with features that ensure a relaxing experience because of its landscape details, accents and water displays at every

The use of tropical plants, with its imposing foliage and wild flowers, makes residents feel like they are out of the city.

Visually, the greeneries also provide a "soft touch" to the hard landscape and serve as screens and buffers to provide privacy for users of outdoor amenities such as the pool, benches, sun decks, trellises, etc.

Easily propagated flowers that come in great varieties and brightness of colors are used to accentuate certain landscape details. such as pots and planters.

"Urban dwellers commonly see manicured landscapes, which are artistically shaped or formally laid out. Manhattan Parkview will feature a tropical garden with free-form planting arrangements. This mass tropical planting style creates a micro-environment that gives a natural feel while walking," Yu said.

To experience the beauty of Manhattan Garden City inside and outside of your plush condominium residence, please call 810-3333 or visit www.themanhattangardencity.com.

Seminar on 'Make millions selling to Filipino Americans'

THE SOCIETY OF USA-PHILIPPINES Realty and Enterprises Marketing Networks (Supremnet) will conduct a semmar/workshop on "Make Milhons Selling to Filipino Americans" on Oct. 5 at 1 p.m. at Max's Restaurant, 2nd level Gateway, Cubao, Quezon City.

The subject matter is about the new and global selling system (also known as Instant Office Solutions) used by Philippine property developers, Fir-

quired assets bank officers, government executives, travel and tour specialists, show promoters, herbal distributors, wellness and beauty care providers and allied businesses when selling their projects, products and services to 3 million Filipino-Americans.

The seminar will also discuss the many ways to tap the vast market, including the cost-effective systems to op-

spino-American realtors, brokers, ac- erate a US branch, how to successfully heensee-realtor birddogs that are now market projects, products and services through techniques applied right from the comfort of Philippine-based offices, strategies to reach the Filipino-American investors, sure-fire methods using the skills of Filipino professionals in the use of Internet-enabled modern networking marketing systems and resources.

The attendees will be taught to "network" with Supremnet's over 200 US engaged in promoting and selling Philippine projects.

The principal facilitator-speaker is Edgar T. Pascual, who is based in Los Angeles, California. He wrote the book titled "How to profit from the \$27B Filipino-American market."

Pascual is a realtor since 1976, a cofounder of the National Association-Rehap in 1979 and worked as CPA staff

auditor with Arthur Andersen-SGV & Co. He also served as computer systems manager of San Miguel Corp. and taught marketing, controllership and systems analysis at the De La Salle University prior to migrating to the United States in 1983. In 1987 he founded the US-based Supremnet International (Society of US-Philippines Realty and Enterprises Marketing Networks), owner of 105

PROPERTY

Applying ergonomic design into the workplace

THE XAVER chair from Italy's Sawaya and

Morone looks deceivingly

uncomfortable.

"ERGONOMICALLY DESIGNED" IS A TAGline used quite commonly in advertisements to explain the features of furniture pieces that function close to the body. But what is "Ergonomics" anyway? And how do we make use of it?

Back then when I had just started working, I had a colleague who was happily swaying her legs and humming a tune as we sat in our meeting room cum lunch room, waiting for our meal to arrive. I hummed along and tried to swing my legs along with hers but my soies just skidded on the floor!

I skipped a beat, looked down and was surprised to see that my legs were longer by almost four inches! I realized that just because my colleague and I had the same height, it

d.d not mean we shared the same body part dimensions. Four inches spelled the difference of how one could—or could not—happily sway legs along with another while sitting on the same bench.

Standardizing dimensions

In Leonardo da Vinci's drawing of the "Vitruvian Man, he interprets the image of ideal mea-sure of bodily proportion which was probably his attempt in standardizing dimensions as refer-ence for art and architecture. But that was the ideal man, and unfortunately, real man comes in quite an assortment of shapes and sizes.

In my experience in the design field, I have learned that more attention has to be given to the details of human dimension and proportion than simplistically referring to "standard" dimensions as we were once taught in school or made to believe by the books. Sometimes, an inch or two can spell the dif-



LEONARDO da Vinci's drawing of the 'Vitruvian Man,' the seemingly perfect but rather false interpretation of the human body's standard proportions.

DESIGN DIMENSIONS

Isabel Berenguer Asuncion



ference between comfort and discomfort, function and dysfunction. This is where ergonomics starts.

As we engage in various activities where everything has some form of interaction with our body, we have to be more precise with how we interrelate our various sizes and pro-

portions to everything around as—a chair, a fork, a stair step. The list is endless. The study of ergonomics—from the Greek words "ergon" meaning work and "nomos" meaning.

laws-is, in simple terms, designing the job to fit the user. In industrial design and interior design practice, it is meant to maximize production or enjoyment by reduc-ing discomfort to the body.

In various parts of the world, dimensions vary to suit the end user. In Asia, standard kitchen counter heights are roughly five cenumeters shorter than those in Europe. In countries like Germany and the Nether-

lands, they would be five centimeters higher than the rest of Europe, or 10 centimeters higher than ours!

Difference in ergonomics

Age too can make a difference in ergonomics. A younger person's definition of a comfortable sofa would be one he can sink into, while an elderly person will find a more apright backrest with a more elevated seat height more comfortable. Low seats and very reclined backrests just don't work for the elderly since they provide little back support and make getting up more difficult. More so if one had long legs.

The essential laptop so common in today's workplace creates an ergonomic dilemma of sorts, the keyboard location is best set on the lap where the arms and wrists in the proper relaxed position. Unfortunately, this causes the head to be bent for one to see the monitor, which, is ergonomically correct if kept at eye level. The result shoulder or wrist pain due to bad arm positioning, or neck strain due to

prolonged head bending
So next time you see the tag that says "ergonomically designed," check the merchandise. Like a dress or a suit that fits comfort ably and looks great on the wearer, the furniture pieces around you should fit according to your specific needs. Dimensions and proportions are not as standard or universal as we think. Check that the merchandise performs ergonomically for you, and not only for Leonardo's Vitruvian man.

DMCI Homes presents Cypress Towers for OFW market

heroes"—the overseas Filipino workers (OFWs)—indeed deserve credit for fueling the Philippine economy and paving the way for progressive growth. With remittances reaching US\$12.8 billion in 2006, the sector is creating brighter prospects and fulfill terms of their specific ing dreams not only for their families but for the whole country secure! for the whole country as well.

For all their hard work and sacrifice, the OFWs deserve nothing less than the fulfillment of their aspirations, among them property like a home they can call their own. This also embodies an upgrade in lifestyle which they can enjoy after so many years of working in a foreign land, away from their loved

ones for long periods of time.

DMCI Homes addresses this need by creat ing value-laden homes for the OFW and to his or her family. Among their outstanding projects, Cypress Towers which is in progressive Taguig City, presents itself as a viable investment and an ideal home, in a unique resort-like environment strategically located near important districts like Bonifacio Global City, Ortigas and Makati.

Sales network expansion

DMCI Homes marketing director May Precilla revealed that their company is currently expanding its sales network in several countries abroad which host a sign ficant popula-tion of Filipinos.

"We have a service channel which is at present training interested brokers from such places as Milan, London, the United States and Dubai. We have launched road shows to entice OFWs and immigrants to help us spread the good word about the value of DM-Cl Homes properties such as Cypress Tow-

Another advantage of assigning country managers who are based abroad is the assur-



EXPERIENCE the ideal cosmopolitan life. Relax and refresh yourself as you take a dip at the swimming pool.

"MODERN-DAY ance of easier communication and more con-

"We are confident of having local flavor when it comes to selling, because seilers based in those locations get to understand more what their market is looking for in terms of their specific housing needs. We are proud to say we have even persuaded bro-kers there to buy DMCI Homes properties themse.ves," Precilla added.

Target market

With a combined figure of almost US\$1.1 billion per month in remittance sent to the Philippines last year, DMCI Homes is buoyed by the prospects of catering to the needs of this growing market of OFWs and foreign-

"Cypress Towers offers two-bedroom units in a prime location and idyllic surroundings that are priced at P2 million and up. Our target market of OFWs can easily afford such a property, because their income allows them to dispense \$500 to \$600 a month for amortization fees. The smart buyers do realize that they get more value from their investment with DMCI Homes," Precilla explained.

Maria Catherine D. Yulo, DMCI Homes' International Sales head, said their US road-shows are now gaining ground, with buyers investing because they like the project.

"Our thrust really is to provide quality homes and first-rate communities located within key city locations. We attract the market of middle-income homeowners who want either to invest or to retire soon in the

Phi. ppines," Yulo noted Florante Ofrecio, DMCI Homes' director for sales, also revealed that OFWs and other buyers are convinced about their projects after being reminded of their mother company DMCI's construction heritage, "Our road shows and training sessions explain about DMCI Homes the brand, where we high ight our heritage of over 50 years of construc-

With considerations for practicality, conve-

nience and exposure to global trends, OFWs now prefer condominium properties within the city instead of single-detached house and lot units in the suburbs, Precilla noted.

Cypress Towers offers an advantage of space over similar developments. A typical 48-sq-m, two-bedroom unit here is priced the same as a studio or one-bedroom unit in BGC. studio or one-bedroom unit in BGC.

For more information on Cypress Towers, please call 888-3333 or visit www.dmci homes, com today.

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- Board Chairman Atty. Manuel M. Serrano, CREBA Founder and Chairman Emeritus, author of various landmark measures and programs adopted as law and government policy, pioneer of low-cost and socialized housing, the real estate guru and innovator whose vision, concepts and advocacies over the last 35 years have shaped the course of land and housing development in the country.
- President Dr. Nathaniel Von Einsiedel, former UN regional director for urban planning and housing, the first Metro Manila Commissioner for Planning, whose extensive knowledge and urban planning expertise is widely sought by leading global institutions such as the World Bank, Asian Development Bank, USAID, UN-CRD and UN-ESCAP
- CEO Dr. Jaime A. Cura, former Director-General of the Technology and Livelihood Resource Center (TLRC), Chairman of the Presidential Commission to Fight Poverty and president/CEO of various prestigious firms, a management and institution-building expert whose breadth and depth of knowledge and experience span various diverse fields of endeavor.
- Treasurer & CFO Mrs. Teresita C. Millan, a financial management wizard whose expert handling of the finances of various firms and organizations, including CREBA and its adjuncts, has enabled these institutions to reach new heights.
- Justice Isagani A. Cruz, former Supreme Court Senior Associate Justice and the country's revered constitutionalist.
- Atty. Jose D. Lina, former Senator and Laguna governor, author of the landmark Urban Development and Housing Act (UDHA) and other vital legislation.
- Atty. Ramon N. Casanova, the well-loved "grand old man" and longest-serving former Bureau of Lands Director.
- Atty. Jose C. Calida, the crusading former Undersecretary of Justice in charge of the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) and other DOJ anti-crime adjuncts.
- Atty. Florencio B. Orendain, founding president of the Pag-IBIG Fund and Guarantee Fund for SMEs, one of the country's top finance experts.
- Atty. Erwin L. Tiamson, the youngest and brilliantly analytical former Lands Management Bureau Director, a legal history wizard.
- Engr. Felino M. Cortez, former LRA Director for Land Registration, who has distinguished himself with 41 years of expert service to the LRA.

FAKE LAND TITLES

The Economy's Gangrone By CREBALAND

False or fraudulers land titles have plagued the Philippine economy for years. Over the decades, corruption and the dermet state of the country's land and litting records have provided a farille ground for take tides syndicates to Unive

This has severely eroded the public's faith in a Tomers title which, under the law, is supposed to be the best evidence of land ownership

Victims of feke titles have suffered losses emounting to billions of pesus. Not even the seasoned real estate industry players here been spered. Courts are diogood with cases and controversies involving land bites of claims.

Many regitimate landowners have either lost their lands to land grabburs with rious triles, or collectively spent hundreds of millions over the decades in costly higations buil to defend their oties in court. In the Meysilo Estella controversy, for instance, the MANSS log) a portion of its lands in 1992, and the long-held titles of the Mandales and Aranetes were annulled in a controversial Supreme Court decision in 2005.

Even underprivilegad beneficiaries of housing projects have less their government arded Miss, through no feult of thems

Very recently, jot owners of the Worth Feinley Park Subdivision (now Nespolitan) in Novoliches waite up to the news of a 1999 court order which threatens to divest from of their unds in an epperant land-grabbing attempt.

Did you know,....? Quezon City, Tagaylay, Caville, Caloncon, and Bulacan ata the 'hottest apols' being the fevorite territories of take titles syndicates. Other critical eress we the entire National Capital Region (NCR), Rizal, Baguia, Pampanga, Zambalas, Palawan Cabu, Negres Occidental, and Davad

Clearly take titles proliferate in areas where the land market is active due to

The syndicates' feverite targets of attack are tries emenating from the vast liter limits known as Reciencies of Estates - among others the Odmen, Predect and Tale Estates in the Ouszon City-Catoocan area. Ste Maria Estate in Bulacan, and Calembe Estate in Legune There are 23 such estates throughout the country totaling some 158,414 hactares.

One of the modus operandi of these syndicales is scouting around for vacant lands. obtaining a copy of the certificate of title covering the tend, copying the textual information in that certificate onto a stoler or counterfelt blank form (but indicating a different registered owner), undertaking "saksak-bungs" in commission with Register of Deeds personnel, then peddling the spurious but seemingly genuine certificate to unsuspecting buyers or lenders.

Another common practice is to pose as the owner of the vacant land and apply for tile reconstitution using fraudulent supporting documents.

Generally, a fake title is one that was simply manufactured out of nowhere. The form used for the certificate may sitter be counterfelt (printed by unauthorized purious) or a stolen/pittered garruine form. In either case the contents are lickhous

A traudulent title is one where, for instance, the form used may be genuine and registration was effected, but prior to the registration the approved survey plan may have been surreplated by altered to increase the size of the tand. Or registration was obtained using a spunous or faisibled deed of conveyance.

An irregular title is one which may not be fake or fraudulant, but where, for instance. capital gains taxes were not peed, or some formatibes or requirements for registration and issuance were not complied with. The tregularities may or not be curable, depending on the

A defective title is one in which for instance when plotted or projected against an official map, the land is shown to be floating at see. Or when the title says the land is located In Lips, but when plotted, it is shown to be within Calemba. Or the land encreaches on another blied property. Depending on an analysis of the records, a detective title may, or may not, turn out to be fake or insudulent.

There are many other instances or article of spuriousness, fraudulence, tregularities or defects. The question is. Would you know how to detect thom?

Are banks immune to fake titles? Mony Supreme Court cases reveal that banks, despite their varieted "due diligence" have not been immune to late tides. The various disclaimers in the auction of bank ROPOAs indicate the banks' uncertainty as to the integrity of the fittes in their inventiones

The frightening question is: How much of the benting system's collateral inventory is covered by take/iraudulent titles? Equally inchiening is the question. If banks are not immune to fake titles, what of the ordinary buyer or investor who is not as well-versed In title varification?

internews with benit officers revealed the following:

- Title verification by banks is conducted by appraisers and/or credit investigators (Cls) who are neither lawyers not geodetic engineers
- Such varification normally involves only (a) a trace-back at the Register of Deeds (RD) (b) obtaining a tax classrance, and (c) conducting ocular inspection.
- Benits tack technical capability to undertake accurate technical analysis of land. Olles and survey plans and
- instances of collission between the borrower and the appraisan/Cl have been discovered

This limited life venication process used to suffice under the jurisprudential doctrine of buyer or mortgages in good lieth. However, from a study of decided cases in the fast 2 decades the Supreme Court - perhaps due to increased incidence of land grabbing and tide faking - appears to have been vireing towards requiring a much greater degree of causion and disigence, considering that (1) what is at stake is the stability of the banking system, and (2) the mones tent out by banks targety belong to the public

in-depth studies also reveal that the limited ventication by banks, stringent though it may be compared to that of its orderary buying or offer echiges, as largely medicated in determining the labowing

- Is the certificate of title geruine?
- . Are the lifes traced at the RD the result of "sakeat-bunot" or not? The records in the entire history of the title cannot be found in the RO alone, but are dispersed in various agencies and regional offices involved in the entire tilting process. But since the usual vertication process is focused on the RD, this is also the fronting of "seksek-burrot operations"
- . Is the land subjected to ocular inspection really the land described in the title, or did the town applicant point the appl to a divietely many is the man really part of an originally decreed/titled land? Were the subdivisions/consolidations Broughout its history technically accurate and validly effected?
- Was the OCT that emanated either from an administrative potent or judicial decree validly espect? Were the transfers down the line validly or regularly effected? Are all the title records consistent with each other, and consistent with Netonical land records, laws and reculations?
- is the title tree of encroachment or overlapping, fatal closure error or other lechnical defects, double trking, falsification, freud, or fampering?
- Is the borrower really the registered owner, or merely an impostor?
- Can the ritto withstand kraicful scrutter when attached?

Land is a primery economic resource. Practically all human activity ~ Mallenancy. economic social or otherwise - are isnd-based, and land development for various economic activities is the number one economic pump primer

lowever the flow of investment capital into land development activities is dependent on the integrity of a Tomens title, and the stability of an according enterprise anchorad on land largely depends on the absence of land ownership controversy. The attanyment of Government's priority developmental goals - mass housing,

Ecozone development, agricultural intrastructure development, fourtern, manufacturing, and others ~ primarily hinges on the direction, page and level of land development inclinity which, in turn, hinge on the authenbody of Torrens titles.

Prior to undertaking all these activities, first, a suitable percel of land must be dentified, and second the integrity of title to that land must be established so that ownership cause that may destablise the assestment may be resolved beforehend This is why a Lot Plan, and the certified true copy of the Torrens trie for the lot, are

bolls required in the application for a development permit or building construction permit among others The malignant impact of fake illies over the entire economic spectrum should thus be readily apparent. Their proliferation him made it difficult to marior real property, whether to

investors, buyers or lenders. Land transactions ~ and consequently, land development activities – proceed at a related pace due to lack of knowledge and extreme difficulty in venifying the reliability of titles. Widely publicized land scares have made the market cynical, even when presented a

The specier of lake littles also senously impairs credit invalment, to the detriment of

otherwise productive enterprises largely dependent on bank ficancing. The next factor is perceived to be one of the main reasons for the high loss loss provision requirement emposed by the Bangko Sentral upon banks, which affects the credit supply it also appears. to be the reason for the abnormally low appraisal and loan values given to real astate collateral particularly in the case of non-prime borrowers, which defeats the outpose of banking. And the increased costs of bile verification on the part of banks translate to higher lending rates and book charges, which many SMEs find unaffordable and thus a deterrent to business formation and expansion that the economy badly needs

Thus, all told, the bane of fake sties severely records the pace of economic growth at both national and focal levels

Government reform efforts - quo wadis? In an etempt to arrest the problem and help the public guard agents fake takes, the government created several task forces, among them the cond Title Vertication Task Force under the Land Registration. Authority (LRA)

Sadly for the public, however, in a 2000 document LRA officers discredited the LRA's own task force with the statement that this "became some sort of a validation/authentication" of the so-called 'saksak-bunot operations' of a syndicate dealing with false and spurious

REAL BANGSHOPPING

Same bring the sales - CTATE Paral Sales September 1 Salte de la Company And the second

The LRA also emberted on a P13 BMon, 13-year computerization project intended. among others, to provide the public with title information over the internal. However, several measures this project has falled to get of the ground.

And even if this LRA project were to beer fruit several years from now, the computerzation principle of "garbage-in, garbage out" gives rise to the question how much of the LRA or Registers of Deeds records have already been compromised by "satisatibunot' operations, and what is the assurance that these compromised records will not find wes into the computerized databases?

If and when the LRA project does succeed the information it could later provide the public may be largely inadequate for purposes of determining title integrity. This is because the LRA not being the only agency involved in the antire titling process, does not have in its custody the complete set of records documenting a site's entire history as it is passed on down the line from the very original bile

For instance, the official land records (i.e. cadastral craps) and the records of the original survey and assuance of the original file are with the Lands Management Bureau (LMB) and the vancus offices of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), while titles issued under the CARP (i.e. emancipation patents (EP) or certificate of inno ownership award (CLOA)) are with the Department of Agrango Reform (DAR).

Sometime in 2000 the UMB under the auspices of the DENR initiated moves to shore up the compromised Torrers System Involgh reforms in land and billing records management

This effort blossomed into the inter-agency and multi-sectoral JAMP project funded by AusAid and World Bank. The LAMP 1 came up with comprehensive studies and policy recommendations on all aspects of land administration and titing, culminating in the egislative proposals submitted to Congress in 2003.

The DENR estimated a time frame of some 20 years from enectment of the proposed measures for the reforms to show meanurgful results. Again, sadby the reform proposals have been styrred by what the private sector has perceived to be a petry battle for buf among the agencies involved in the meantime, lictitious "billing" date and tampered records from unabated "saksak bunof" operations continue to pile up and compound the messy state

One can almost hear the fake titles syndicates chucking as they ravage the economy more brazenty than ever before

TITLE WARRANTY

CREBA's Seal of Authenticity 8y: CREBALAND

With the recent launching of the CREBALAND Title Westerly, CREBA his back at fake Hilles syndicales where it would hurt them must, by exposing to their potential victims what their commodity really is - a mere scrap of paper

Almost towards strengthening the Torrers system and eventually eradicating falce littles the proneering CREBALAND Tide Warranty – a protuct to full title insurance — was designed to thoroughly venty/evolutate land littles and provide assurance as to their integrity

Helmed by CREBA's leading lights who are widely recognized as land experts by both the government and private sectors, backed by a board of expert consutants who have distinguished themselves in government service to the fields of time geodetic engineering and land registration/titing, manned by a pool of legat and geosciences specialists and professionals, and linked to life regional network of little researchers through fully computerzed operations and Mobile computing technology. - the CREBALAND Title Warranty system is so far the only one of its kind in the country today.

An integral component of this system is CREBA's cutting-edge Geographic Information Systems (GIS) parcellarly mapping, uniquely designed not only for the speedy technical analysis of land bless, but also as a potent tool in evaluating the tovestment and developmental potentials of any land parcel anywhere in the country

With it's closes database of official land records and meets, found information and lower profiles, the CREBALAND GUS to so far size the only one of its land in this country in terms of its comprehensive, renormide scope and parcellary mapping/projection capabil

Together thisse systems enable anyone claiming ownership of a piece of land to fully satisfy the fundamental jurisprudential requirements of (1) proving the identity and origin of his claimed land with absolute containty, and (2) proving the strength and legismacy of his gwnership claim

Through a microscope. A life applied for a CREBALAND Tile Warrardy is subjected to a most rigorous and exhaustive set of examination research, vertication investigation and analysis processes which were so designed as to render it virtually impossible for any trie detect of signs of fraud or spunousness to escape detection. These processes include, among others

- A physical genuineness lest of the subject form used for the title certificate;
- An identity check of the registered owner or warranty applicant;
- An extensive historical research from the original registration down to the tatest transfer certificate - into all the records and documents pertaining to the successive surveys, registrations, transfers, reconstitution if any ready but records, annotated encumbrances, and all pertinent official land records. Cerufied copies of all available records are obtained from the vanous agencies/instrumentalistic involved and their regional offices such as the Registres of Deeds LRA. LMB DEAIR DLR Majorial Archives, local assessors.
- An extrausive technical analysis of all the technical records/documents, match against the official maps and fand records to determine the accuracy of the nd's descriptions and trace ds true origin, stilliang the CREBALANO GIS and
- Comprehensive legal and historical analyses of all the persinent records and documents to determine, among others, regularity of official agnatures and comphance with land disposition, surveying, fitting and transfer procedures and requirements under various laws.

With these processes, a tempored certificate of title, or a record inserted into the Res. of the Register of Deeds through "talkselv-buriot" or a fraudulent every in the official registries, at a "doctored" survey plan, or a fictious or legistly flewed transfer, or will immunibly be exposed when each record is analyzed and metched with every other record obtained from all the agencies concerned.

A lide that hurdles all these processes is issued a Title Warranty Certificate attesting to the integrity and reliability of the little

Lifetime assumance. The "We delease coverant" inscribed in each Warranty Cerolicise which no other entity in this country so far offers, expresses CREBALAND a full faith at the thoroughness and accuracy of its processes and its certainly as to its findings

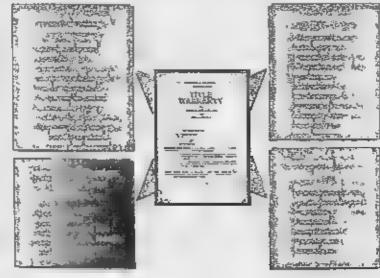
Thus, with a Title Warranty Investors, buyers and lenders are assured of protection against lake, traudulent or materially defective littles, even as they are placed in a better position to make water investment decisions from the comprehensive information provided by CREBALAND about the land, the locality and the bile

In the case of banks and lenting institutors, the Title Warranty would considerably enhance their asset quality by alfording risk-free collaterals, even as it would minimize if not preclude collision between from applicants and appraisants or credit investigations. With reduced risks, banks may than prevail upon the BSP to reduce the percentage requirement. for loss provision which cuts into a bank's figurally.

Prospective borrowers using a warranted title as collateral would enjoy a higher credit racing, forces documentary requirements speedur from processing and, more Importantly, would have the means to negotiate for higher loan value and lower interest rate

On the other hand, tandowners armed with a CREBALAND Title Warranty are

- peace of mind and protection against land grabbers flaunting take titles;
- · security against temperate of their title records as through the research? preserved by CREBALAND.
- attactive defense in case of kingation or land conflicts, and
- entranced marketability and increased investment/collateral value of their land



How much is an independently nathenticated title worth? Affordability-wise, when one measures the substanted increments in investment value and marketability that a warranted life derives. The cost of obtaining a life warranty pales into insignáciance

Consider a 2,000-sq m (and with a sone, value of P8,000 per square meter, located in a false titles "hot spot" such as Antipolo. Without a late warranty, is broken could dismand. anywhere from 7% to 12% to market the property, and at that, the highest bid price would be no more than P4 000 per square mater With a title warranty that would cost just fifty peacs (P60 00) per square motor in this

case. The property owner could sack up the selling price to as much as P9,000 per square meter, and still would have no difficulty marketing 4 For a 5-hoctore land in an urban area, with a zonal value of P4,000 per aguans meter, the warranty cost would be only serven peace (P7 00) per square motor. For a 60-

Instant agreement litted with a zonal value of P150 per against mater, it would be only fortyfive centavos (P0 45) per square meter. Compare these costs with the cost of a full coverage car innumnce that is good for only a year (what's a car compared to one's land?), or to a broker's commission that ranges from 5% to 12% of selling pace.

Clearly, adjordability should be a persistent to one who become the true value of an enpreyment life hilland

GIS Parcellary Mapping/Projection The Land & its Attributes. The Title & its Origins.

It is a truter. that the investment and collateral value of any given land is determined not only by a not of factors indicating the land's developmental and investment potentials. but also by the quality and integrity of the tale

The traditional way of collecting information about a land in any given area has been to go from one government office to enother which under normal circumstances could take months and entait considerable expense After which the interested perty goes about verifying the title; a describing task which, unless he is fully equipped could result to an

The world-class CREBALAND geographic information system (GIS) Parcellary Mapping was built specifically to arrawer the two fundamental questions in the mind of a

- 1. Is the land bankable?
- 2. Is the tide retable?

Using global standard geo-referencing technology and official mapping reference points, and drawing from its very own power-packed digital database of official land information covering the whole country, the CREBALAND GIS answers these questions in a

More than just being the most comprehensive digital repository of geo-physical and spatial information in the country today, the uniqueness of the CREBALAND GIS arises from its canability to accurately analyze the technical integrity of the title for any land parcel

A land tills may contain the following technical errors, which under existing jurisprudence would senously impair - if not totally vituals or invalidate - the ownership

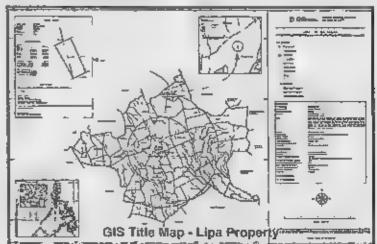
- Locational error such as when the land is actually socied in a place different from what the title states or when it cannot be located at all A seller or toan applicant triay show you a larist, but it may not be the same land obvered by the
- Boundary error ~ such as, for instance, when the trie describes the land as being bounded by a nebonal road of a river when in fect it is not, or when it straddies part of englishable land
- Closure error ~ which, in layman's terms, simply means a gap between the land parcel's corners or points. This gap means that the light's bounding lines do not close to form a polygon, such that when you tence it, you and up with a gap in the
- Overlap, encroachment or dualicate title/claims ~ such as when plotted or mapped the billed land is shown to be stradding another property, or covered by another claims or title
- Inconsistency with the reference survey plans, and/or predecessor titles, and/or official land records/maps - such as when the subdivisions and/or consolidations of the land throughout the history of the title lack basis in duly approved private or oublic land surveys.
- Indoterminate origin of the land such as when plotted or mapped, the land described in the current trie is shown to be not part of the predecessor (Ries, or of the longitual title (OCT), or of the original application for land registration. One would not be able to tell whether a title contains these errors just by reading it.

or ever by an ocular inspection of the land doet. Traditionally, accurately detecting these errors required as actual ground survey

using gaodetic engineering equipment). The results of the survey were their drawn (or plotted) either manually or through computer-aided design (CAD) software introduced locally some 25 years ago

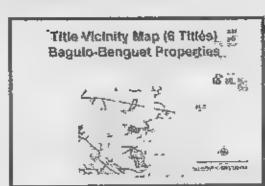
Even as this process is as time-consuming as it is costly. It is wholly insufficient to determine technical consistency among all triling records as against official maps, unless advanced mapping software is used in conjunction with perg-referenced official data

Enter the CREBA, AND GIS



With fully computenzed operations, CREBALAND easily and speedify generates various dynamic, information-packed parcellary maps, vicinity and fown maps, and threedimensional (3D) thematic maps, graphically showing the following.

- The land percel (or percels) described in the Bile (or tries) ~ the iol data: exect configuration and bounding lines, exact boundaries, exact location in the town/barangey map, locational, boundary and/or closure errors, and even GPS coordinates to aid in site visit.
- 2. The lechnical relationships among the current title, the predecessor titles, the reference survey plans, the original litting records, and the ollicial maps and other
- 3 Parcellary data on the economic or developmental colentials of the land, such as
- Stope, dievation and ithology Land use describation per approved LGU land use map
- Agricultural land use category per SAFDZ map
- Distance from town center BIR zonal classification and zonal value
- Vicinity and town data, such as Comprehensive road network (primary, secondary 6 tectory roads)
- Network of water bodies
- Landmarks, economic zones, banks, lourist arees, airports
- Unities in the area (power franchises, water franchises, felephone camers). Barangayhown population and income class.





Clourly, the CREBALAND systems are yet to be matched in this country today, and for which CREBALAND undoubledly deserves its epithel. The Land Experts

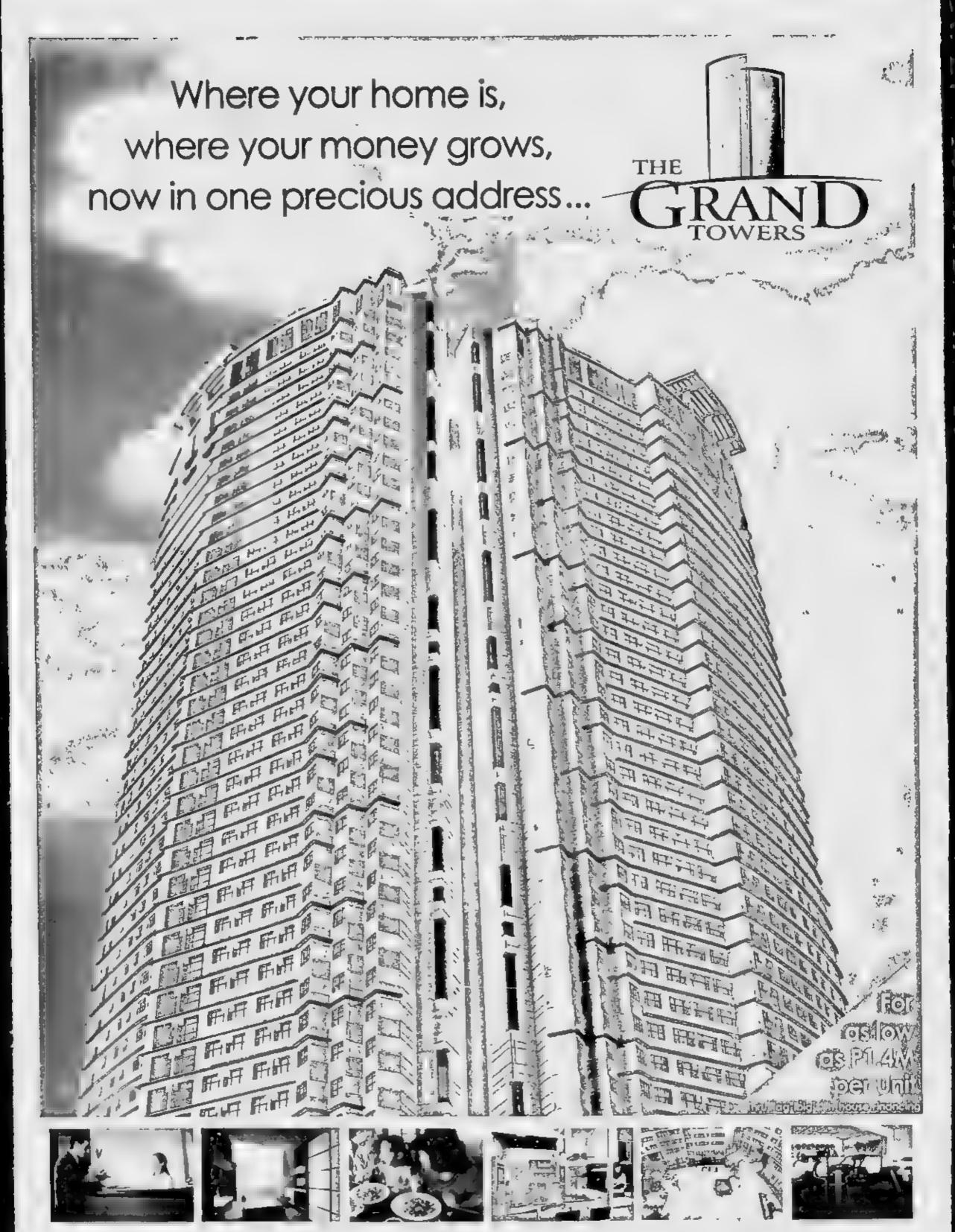
Convergence - powering the fund sector's leap into the future. It may be said that with the CREBALAND Take Warranty and GIS Percetary Mapping why be said may were the CRESALAND Time Wintermy and GIS restorary Mapping systems, the CRESA Internal Portal and CRESALAND's venture technology-packed nervices CRESA has flowly achieved full commandation, with ICT [information and communications technology] lidy powering the various disciplines in the land sector registration and titing, law, appraisalization, development planning. ginhal marketing, and a host of others

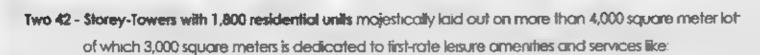
With this convergence, the Philippine land sector is now fully armed to take the economy along to its evolutionary leap into the future

In particular, the Title Warranty and GIS Parcellary Mapping - the first private sector undertakings of their land on much comprehensive and nationwide scale in this country were apacidically and uniquely crafted to provide the land socks with the means to pursue the prerequestes to investment decision-making and fand development in the most accurate efficient, effective, speedy, and rehable manner

Beyond pocuniary considerations is the considerable public or national interest that nies these ventures, in terms of their vast potentials to significantly contribute to national progress, by inggering an expanded level unit faster pace of land development and decrease foreign investment activity at both local and national levels And in these variouss the public is assured of world-class standards of professional

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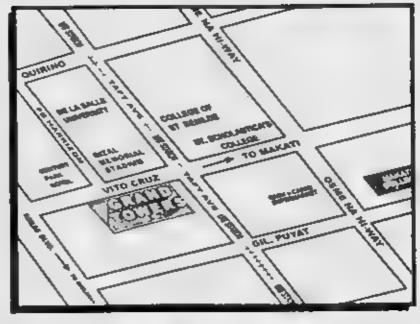
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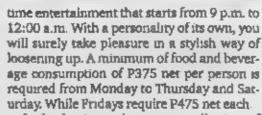
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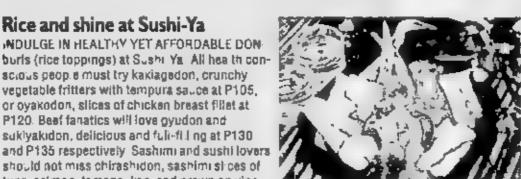
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Waterfront Hotels and Casinos launches on-line booking

WATERFRONT HOTELS AND CASINOS made use of dynamic launched its new website with more userfriendly features and enhanced design for optimum visual experience. It adopted the marketing concept of the group's marketing campaign "Excitement Around Every Corner" to keep it aligned with the group's direction in expanding its clientele not only in the Asean region, but also in the global arena of hotel market

The newly designed Waterfront website platform is engineered to provide all viskors upto date services, promotions, hotel information and easy access to make online bookings with calendar view and a real time confirmation hotel room reservations. The platform consists of four individual websites for each Waterfront property and a link to G Hotel Manila by Waterfront, which are maintained by the group's own back-end online reservations team. The websites have been redesigned and improved to communicate the services and tools that Waterfront Hotels and Casinos provide its guests coming from all parts of the world.

Key enhancements: The new web design

flash, multimedia which enables a better opportunity to present a richer content in terms of visual design, a calendar view with integrated real time availability, and dynamic rates for a better Waterfront Hotel room shopping experience, showcases improved design, according to the latest standards in web design and corporate identity; and easier

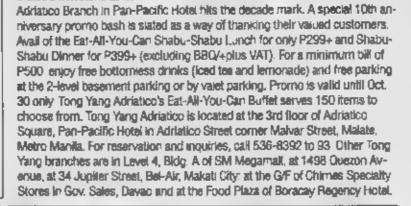
navigation throughout the website. The transition of the Waterfront look on the web provides strong presence in every computer of more than 1 billion Internet users now. This upgrade is another step in Waterfront's ecommerce strategy, where the website provides an avenue for the Waterfront properties to leverage their hotels and the brand as well. The

new website is equipped with real time online availability and booleng options in multiple languages like Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Spanish, and French.

To expenence Waterfront Hotels on-line, you may type www.waterfronthotels.com.ph or you may call (632)687-0888 or e-mail msro@waterfronthotels.net for more inquiries.

Tong Yang Adriatico 10th year bash

TONG YANG SHABU-Shabu & Sarbecue, the Philippines' biggest Shabu-Shabu & BBQ Chain restaurant celebrates a milestone as its



Don't worry, yep, it just moved!

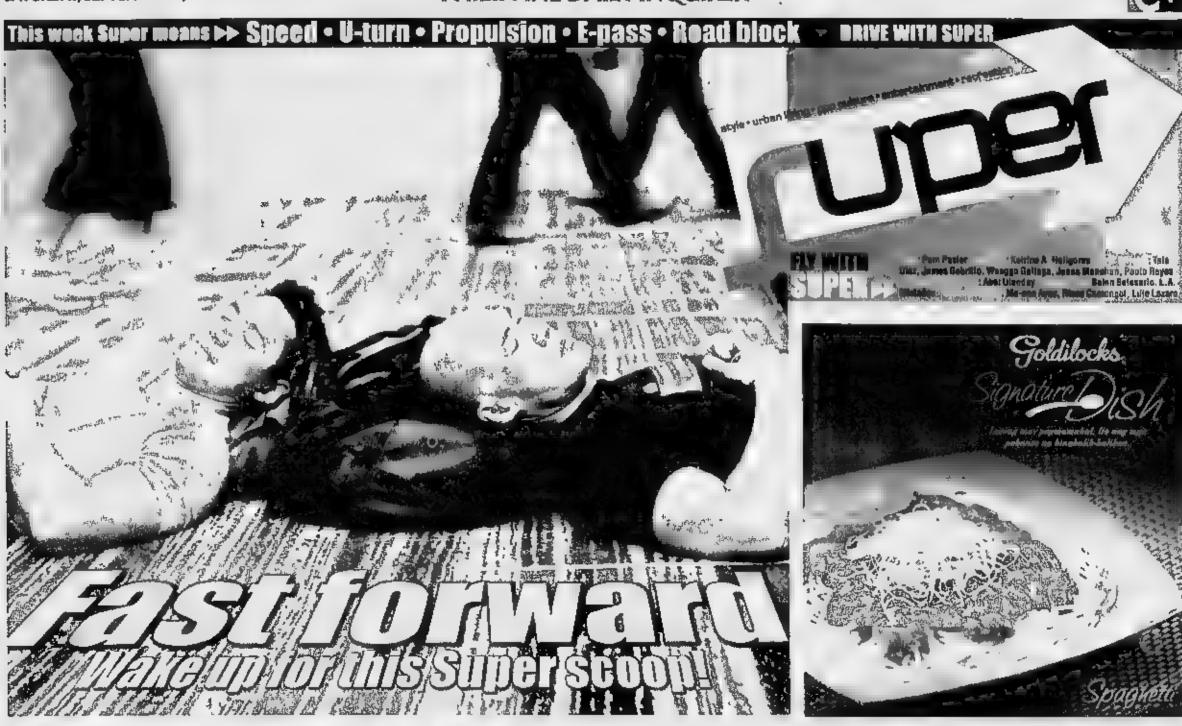
RECENTLY, THE NORTH PARK floors are now open, making you we all know (and love) to be along Wilson St. in West Greenhills, transferred to a new location. This bigger, brighter and new location is just a block away at P Guevarra St. corner V Cruz also in the City of San Juan. So loyal patrons or North Park fanatics, who may be in a temporary state of mental shock, need not worry or runamuck that their favorite Chinese comfort food is now far, far away, no dear it just moved. Great news, isn't it?! But what's even greater news is that the new location is new, big and yes, simply splendid.

Today this 3-story building is an expertly built structure, adomed with modern interiors and functional furniture, its spacious dining areas can seat over 200 people at any one time. Its air-conditioned first and second

feel it never left, it just became better. Surely you can continue to enjoy North Park dishes daily from 10 a.m. to 2 a.m. Very soon, Al Presco dining will be offered at the 3rd floor, additional parking areas will also be available. Tables with giant umbrellas are available, perfect for your middle-of-the-week-night-out with friends or office mates, to enjoy the fresh breeze of the evening air. Delivery at your doorstep is just a five-number dia, away, dial 73737 and order from your home or office. For catering needs, choose from an array of buffet menus, customized menus are available for celebrating special occasions. You and your guests will enjoy delicious North Park dishes in the privacy of your own function room

Now aren't you glad it









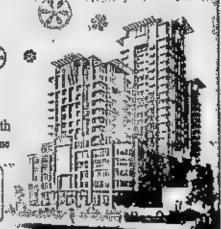


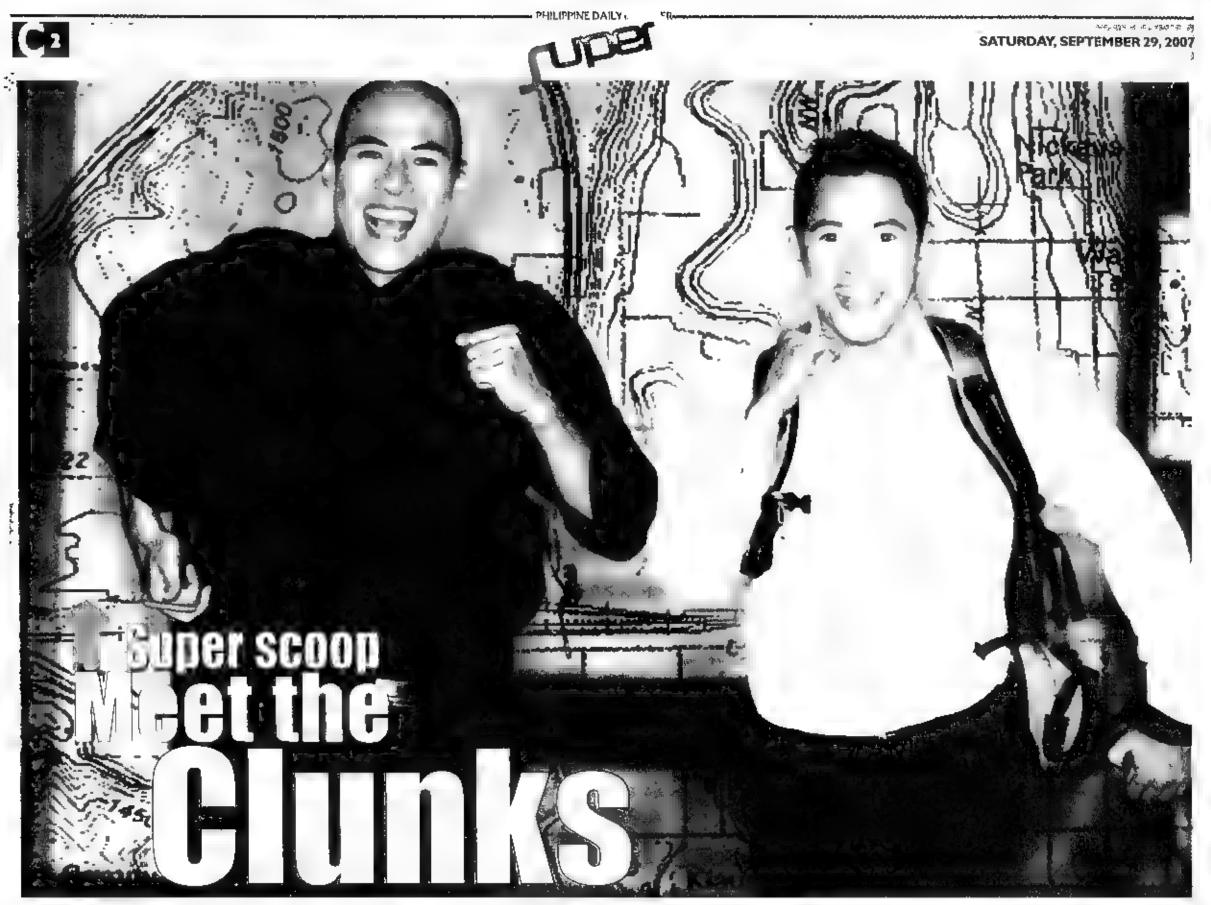
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HE SHOW THAT has captured audiences is back-this time with two of our very own TV hosts hopping along to reprezent

Okay, enough of the ghetto talk. Excinng times lie ahead for fans and newcomers to Asia's edition of the Emmy Award winning reality-com-petition series, "The Amazing Race," as "The Amazing Race Asia 2" promises to be bigger and bolder, traveling further and beyond Asia.

Bar none, the original Amazing Race has given viewers a global adventure reality show like no other. Even after 11 awesome installments, fans are not letting go of the show.

The Amazing Race not only just bagged its fifth consecutive Emmy Award, it has won every 'Outstanding Reality-Competition Television Programme' Emmy since the award genre was created.

The first Asian edition too wowed the fans, with over 15 million viewers tuning in for its unique brand of entertainment. With so much behind The Amazing Race franchise, The Amazing Race Asia is set to push the envelope even further in season 2.

So who made the cut this season? 10 feisty teams of var-1ed nationalities and cultural backgrounds from a wide range of Asian nations had beaten out over 2,500 applicants (and even past participants of the original US series) to gain a hot spot in the race for an adventure of a lifetime.

Hi, I'm a Mac, only with an R in the middle

Fast forward to this exciting newsbreak! Our very own TV personalities Rovilson Fernandez and Marc Nelson form one of the two teams from the Philippines. They call them selves Team Rovilson and Marc, or Team Marc and Rovilson, depending on who you're asking

"We promise to give you the work on an



PHOTOGRAPHY BYEDDIE BOY ESCUDERO MAKEUP BYLAMA B. NERNANDEZ OF SHIL JEMLINA SHOT ON LOCATION ATHYATT HOTEL AND CASING MANILA SPECIAL THANKS TOJOYCE RAMBREZ AND SABEL GATUSTAD
PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY DAE LEE THIS SUPER SCOOP IS BROUGHT TO YOU BYAXMASIA RACE STARTS IN NOVEMBERI



IT'S A SMALL WORLD AFTER ALL!

most animated, the most exciting, the most lovable, huggable, most fun team you've ever seen on Amazing Race Asia. Why do you want us? Because we are fit, we are fearless, and best of all, we are the most competitive ... when we are giving each other a hard time," the duo says on their audition video, which was inspired by the "I'm a Mac, I'm a

PC" ad campa.gn of Apple Joining the race was Rovison's suggestion, Marc shares. "We both love the race. We're both going through a stage in our lives where we wanted to do something out of the box, something adventurous. We have traveled together before, we have a very similar sense of humor, and we're into sports. So I was like, hell yeah, let's go! We ongmaly planned to do a backpacking trip in Europe during the time the race was taped, so it was easy to leave. We already told people that we're gonna be away for a month or so. Everything realty just kind of came together".

Watch, learn, and win?

Both hosting sports related shows on the tube, the duo didn't need to premuch physically. Marc, howevhad to important element of the race-running around. "I had to work on my cardio. I hate to run, I really do. It's not my favorite thing. The actual running during the race scared me. I don't do the treadmill on the gym, so I had to step up on my cardio a bit. Mentally, I think I was game,"

Rovilson shares, "We had to study a lot on world things, like maps and current events.

In addition, the team fixed their strategies and psyched themselves up by watching a lot of episodes from the past seasons of The Amazing Race. "Every episode we could get our hands on, we watched. Up until the plane ride going to the starting location, Rovilson and I were viewing the show via an ¡Pod!" Marc reca.ls.

Boys just wanna have fun

When host Alian Wu gave the go signal, the duo was immediately branded as the pretty boys of the game. Rovilson admits that he wasn't surprised. "Everyone was expecting us to be the nunks, but I'd like to think

that we were the clowns. We were, well, the Clunks," he shares Marc, on the other hand, calls their duo "The Village Idiots "

And that's pretty much their on-screen persona. Blasting that dumb-hunks stereotype, Marc and Rovilson are sophisticated, well-traveled, and selfdeprecating. Expect the gays to put each other down a lot, all in the name of namming it up for

Rovison shares that he felt motivated by the disappointing performance of the Ph.l.ppme teams last season one duo was even eliminated during the very first episode. "Absolutely motivating I couldn't sleep on the first night of the race. I was dreading that we would come in last on the very first pit stop, with Allan Wu saying The Philippines has done it again. You are the last team to arrive "

Both guys are very confident that the audience will love them. "The whole time, we were very aware that the camera was capturing our every move. We worked it. Hey, we're two guys from TV, so we know how it is, Plus, Marc's there to pose and angle for the camera on my behalf," Rovalson says.

Marc shares, "Anything that has to do with strength or stamina Rovilson's the man-On the other hand, I have the sense of direction, and I'm real ly analytical. So we complement each other."

He adds, "On the show, we were the clowns whilst being

Team Marc and Rovi? Or Team Rovi and Marc? Let's just call them the team that will rock the 'The Amazing Race' for the Philippines. Hooray!

very competitive. We'd like to "ing together, I swear, I think that we had a great time. thought we were in an audi-Yes, it was about winning, but tion for America's Next Top at the end of the day, you wanna Model," Rovilson tells me. have a great time it's an oppor- Marc adds, "This is the best tunity of a lifetime. You're traveling around the world with one of your best friends. Sometimes it was really just about kicking back and enjoying it Sure we play it up sometimes but when they watch the show, they'll see RoyLson and I being Rovilson and I. It's who we are in real life. We are idiots."

Pretty, amazing

While the previous season had contestants facing challenges at major destinations in Asia. Australia, New Zealand, and even the Middle East, this season, viewers will get a generous dose of adventure as The Amazing Race Asia 2 goes far and wide, racing across four continents. Plus, I've

been hearing that this season's cast so well, "This is a faster, hipper, younger, more exciting

batch. During our first meet-

season of the show. It beats all the other seasons, even the ones from the US. There are some unbelievable characters in this season, including the other Philippine team, a couple from Cavite."

"They are—how do I say it—controversial," Rovison says.

Aside from the buzz, expect the unexpected Expect two guys who are out there to have fun. Expect a whole lot of laughs. Expect Team Marc and Rovilson, or Rovilson and Marc to represent the country well.

It's gonna be a blast. Fo'















he fidgeted when he got his first harrout and his surprised face when a balloon popped on his first birthday party imagine this in true motion captured in full color, with uncompromised video quality. Imagine that and more with Canon's MiniDV camcorders.

Conon, the world's leader to digital imaging, has introduced three new models in its ZR series cameorders: the ZR850, ZR830, and ZR800 MiniDV Camcorders.

These cameorders provide powerful technology for capturing the most outstanding videos and photos with an array of smart new features that ensure the easiest, most enjoyable user experience. In fact, as Canon has long been regarded as an expert in optical lens design and production, all ZR series cameorders feature 35x optical zoom - Canon's longest zoom ever This feature allows you to zoom in on your child performing the lead role in a theater play or his action-packed moves at his first baseball game

Canon's ZR comcorder tine offers the ideal solution for consumers who may just be getting started with their first carneorder and are looking gyfor the simplest, most accessible device that delivers great results. The new ZR models feature a joyatick in the main panel display that makes it easier than ever to record, play back and navigate the menu options. The Easy Mode automatically optimizes most of the camcorder's settings, while the preset scene modes make it easy to shoot common scenes, including sunsets, fireworks, or a day at the beach.

The 2,7 inch widescreen LCD allows you to easily compose shots that can be shown on a widescreen TV So share your videos with family and friends as you munch popcorn in front of your television.

The new models are also powered by Canon's DIGIC DV image processor. The DiGIC DV technology processes video

information separetely from photo information to always reproduce. accurate, clear colors for both



med.ums. lt also dynamically widens the range of colors in video and photos.

Go the Distance -- Smoothly

The 2007 ZR series camcorders offer genuine Canon 35x optical zoom lens (1000x digital zoom), which is Canon's longest optical zoom on a camcorder to date. Sophisticated yet simple to use, Canon's Smooth Zoom feature actually reduces the erratic, jerky zoom techniques that plague some users of long zooms, smoothing out the process by selecting from one of three pre-set zoom speeds. For even smoother video, Canon Image Stabilization helps provide a shake free image for the entire focal length.

Shoot and Roll Anytime Without the Hassle

Thus year, Canon introduces the Quick Start feature, which allows the camcorder to be ready at a moment's notice. The Quick Start mode (available on the ZR850 and ZR830 Min:DV camcorders) provides an alternative to the standard limited "on/off" option and lets you put the cameorder on "standby" between shots. Once on standby, you can resume shooting quickly - in less than one second - meaning no more missing the first moments of the school play while the cameorder

Quick Start's "standby" capability also means that the camcorder does not waste bettery power by repeatedly turning on and off. Canon ZR MiniDV cameorders can remain in Quick Start mode for 30 minutes before automatically shutting off

The Canon ZR800 MiniDV Camcorder also offers a microphone terminal, allowing you the added flexibility of plugging in an external, microphone.

The Canon ZR850 MiniDV Camcorder provides a built-in Video Light to help ensure that you do not miss a thing, even when the natural lighting is less than ideal. It also offers a 1.07 megapatel CCD Image Sensor to be sure that all still and moving images captured are of a higher quality

You Can Take It With You

The ZR850 and ZR830 MimDV Camcorders each record still images and feature PictBridge technology, which make it a snap to distribute prints by allowing the ZR camcorder to connect directly to any PictBridge compatible printer Now you can print those stills and arrange your pactures in your mom's anniversary book or your son's "Firsts" scrapbook,

Sicek Styling, Comfortable Cost

All structured with Canon's sleek designs, the new ZR series camcorders are easy on the eyes and easy to hold in the hand. The ZR series camcorders come in three colors -- the ZR850, Pearl Black; the ZR830, Dark Gray; the ZR800, Deep Blue. They also are lightweight and compact, making them easy to grab on the go. Even with the 35x optical zoom lens, each of the three ZR model camcorders weighs less than a pound. All

intruding, dangling lens cap.

Avaisable from authorized Canon dealers, the ZR850 retails at PHP 27,950, ZR830 at PHP 22,950 and ZR800 at 19,950. It comes with a FREE DV bag, tripod and one

And there's more. The Canon Photo DV Offer is now extended until September 30, 2007! You can get an iPod series of 2007. See flyers and print ad for details.

Remember your baby's first steps, the way models have built-in lens covers so that there is no Shuffle for free or at a 60% discount when you purchase a Canon PhotoDV Camcorder Simply present the promovoucher and sales invoice at any PowerMac outlet to claim the iPod Shuffle. For provincial purchases, the iPod Shuffle will be delivered right at your doorstep. Redemption period is only until November 30, 2007 so visit your nearest Canon dealer today! Per DTI-NCR permit number 3770.



Cat a free Ped shuffle up your parchase of select PhotoDV readets by September 39, 2097

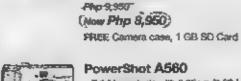
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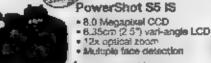
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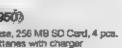
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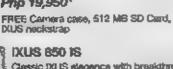
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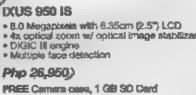
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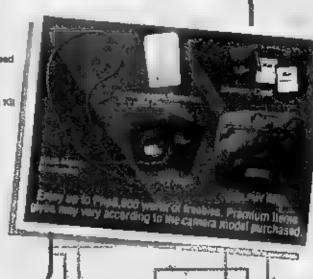
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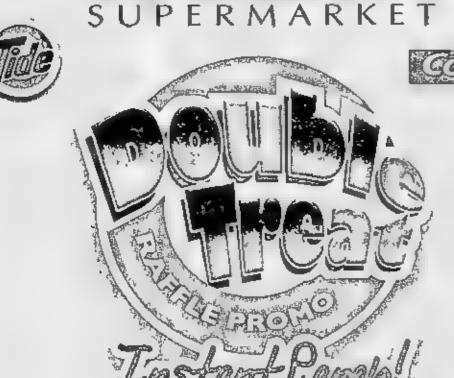




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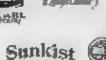




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By Janine Cuenca-Dario and Stef Juan

iper Radar

YASTE Ameartree as it colebrates its 8th year anniversary with style. He less than the 33-piece ensemble Manita Symphony Orchestra joins the baud in this amhitious endeaver "Sugarfree Livel" happoor tonight at 8 p.m. at the Music Muso-

SEE the one-of-a-kind musical extravayanza, Wanders, leaturing gravity-delying - rylu by II want periorors frem China and Russia. Every Wednes-Fitting and Billiothy physic in Oct. 1 to Bec. 29 at the Paycor Grand Theater, Castro Filipino Airport, Paradaque. Call 891-9999.

REAR the beautiful Spanish language and tall in love all ever again at Petitinia 6 de Stennish falm resoval starting this act. 1-12 at the Greenhelt 3 Cinemas, Ayala Cento But all Discoveration area from term of the Pers belief. The Institute and Institute over 24 Timeson and United Sources Hills. on for surround with the in 85 or visit manila.corvantes.es.

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DISTRIBUTE the aromatic Ravers of Chocolate at Café Recutat in any of their is-



cations: Loyola Heights, Serendra and Eastwood City Walk.

WATCH OUT for the awarding of Maelto's best in the nightlife at the 24/7 Hocturnal Awards on Wednesday. Winners will be

101% crazy karaeke fan when The Johnwies take over Mag:Net BonHacle High Street to play bits from The Beatles, U2, B.E.M., The Bamones and other (avorttes from the 80s that you can sing along to. The singing starts at 9:30 p.m. Monday,

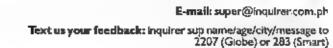




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By Fran Katigbak and Kathryn Fatima Reyes

ERHAPS ONE OF THE telltale signs "American Idol" finalist Elliot Yamın has reached celebrity status is you're only allowed 15 minutes to be in a room with him.

And Super grabbed those 15 minures when the 29-year-old artist visited the country recently.

His self-titled album-a compilation of R&B songs rendered in the unique, soulful voice that has won over fans worldwide-was released March 28 in the US. Ell of has since gone on tour in the States and Canada, with the Philippine stop hosted by the Ayala Mails his very first in Asia

Despite the shutterbugs and the spotlight, fans won't be disappointed to learn Eiliot has remained very friendly and down-to-earth "The celebrity status sits very weird with me, People use that term pretty loosely around me. I always felt that to be thought of as celebrity, or be talked about that way, is just kind of weird. I don't know if it will ever sink in because I'm just the same old guy, only with a schedule 10 times busier?

Well, not exactly the same old guy we watched in "Al" Season 5

During a red carpet event for Al's Top 12, a reporter asked Elliot If : there's anything you could change about your looks, what would it be? His reply (that he's content with his looks but would love to have an extra smile) came out in magazines and newspapers all over the US

He was also bombarded with calls from dentists who offered to fix his smue "A dentist I met in LA offered to redo my smile for free and I took it since it was a very expensive procedure. I was thinking, I'd be in front of the camera a lot and, having a lot to smile about, I figured I'd go ahead and 9 get my teeth fixed "

Elliot has decided to embrace his mop of curls, too. "It was my .dea just to let it grow out. I didn't even know I had curls, serious!"

On the Ayala Malis tour in Man.la ,. and Cebu, he charmed audiences with the brand new smile and hairstyle, but with the warm personality and soulful vibe of the old Yamin intact

In the following excerpts, Elliot talks about his friendship with another AI finalist, Fil Am José Sway Penala. He shares his thoughts on the album and promotional tour, plus how he plans to keep his ground in the competitive music industry.

A lot of Idol finalists have either been one-hit wonders or have just as quickly gotten off the limelight. How do you plan to avoid that a route?

I think we've got a lot of great things in the horizon. We've been doing a . good job of staying in the public eye and making the right TV appearances on the right shows. I've got a new pub-Leist now. I've got a great marketing 🕆 and promotions team that we've hired



"I'M JUST the same old guy, only with a schedule 10 times busier."

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BY JESS ABRERA

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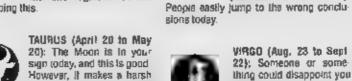


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Birthdate of: Jerry Lee Lewis, musician, Bryant Gumbel, TV newsman; Anila Exberg, actress.



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aspect to both Neptune and Venus. This is not good Bon't push your luck. All is not as it appears today.



LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22);



Don't drink and drive. If you're doubtlef about doing something, don't do it AQUARIUS (Jag. 20 to Feb. 18): Conversations with family members are subject.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to

Dec. 21): You might feel

sympathetic toward a co-

worker today. Nevertheless.

make sure you get all your facts first. Misunderstand-

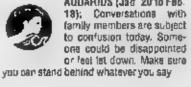
ings can occur easily today.

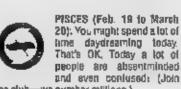
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to

Jan 19): Your desire to have

Jun or anjoy yourself could lead you a bit astray today

(Don't fall for crocodite tears.)







By Josiah Breward 9/29/07 Screnton, PA Friday's Puzzle Solved 3 Nondescript chambers P L A Y B Y P L A Y B A E E L M S O L T S I D 6 Ciamorous 7 Hay storage 8 Existences 9 Manama's country 10 Poem of tribute BAHAMA AWARDS DAYROT AMAS RECTSTEPBYSTEP 11 Stormy state 12 Verlaine poem, . de lune" 13 Delighted A C R E A T O Z 19 Grandlloguent FXFAT 24 Disregard 26 Freedom from ambiguity 28 Yeas and nays

33 Author Stout 35 Meet the chaltenge

38 Postponed 39 More

underplayed Biblical weed 42 Core group

44 Iraqi port 45 Tapestry in "Hamlet" 46 "Jerusalem

Delivered" poet 49 Legal document 52 Half of a fly?

43 Arum plant 53 Grippe

CONCEPTIS SU BOKU

Conceptis Sudoku by Dave Green 5



GARFIELD





HOROSCOPE

Misunderstandings

LEO (July 23 to Aug 22):

bosses, parents and VIPs

could occur today. Rela-

tions with others could be

stratned. Therefore, don't

dush the river Take it easy

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept 22); Someone or some-

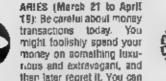
thing could disappoint you

today. You might want to

ask yourself if your expac-

let anyone pull the wool over your syes.

tations were realistic Don't



The second section is



GEMINE (May 25 to June 20): Relations with others

might be confusing today.

Quite lksly, you'll be disap-

pointed in something politi-

cally or religiously Fortu-

CANCER (June 21 to July

22): Friends are confusing loday. Don't take anything

too seriously. In fact, take

everything with a grain of

Avoid arguments.



Be cautious if dividing something among others. Be careful how you handle other people's resources or money. There's a lot of room for confusion and error today.



SCORPID (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Play it cool loday. Don't demand your own way



There's something you're missing, and this could cresations with partners and close frientis.



20). You might spend a lot of time daydreaming today. That's OK, Today a lot of people are absentminded and even confused: (Join

ate difficulties with converthe club—we number millions.)

ing world's most omnipresent i ling capules this year A hook of the hyan behind the type

W. LN. YOURF B. St. Kers of way more mp. hant the gs. global warm ing, remantic cooling, prostitots rwading your us al Mo cit. in at something so refreshing y mandane comes along that der entrop and two

OUT THE

up. The design would is cele brating the 50th year anniversary of ... drumtoil please ... Helvetica1

Yes, that's Helvetica the font, and if, like me,

you recognized that in an eyeblink, it's a telling sign of a longterm state of being velcro'd to Mi- 🖟 crosoft Word. To coincide with the font's fiftieth

BUON

buthday, а new docu-COMPLEANNO mentary film by Gary Hustwit, "Helveti-ca," has been treleased and DIMOSTRARLI. twit, "Helvetiis currently reaping rave reviews in the

andie circuit. On the film's opening weekend in New York, font fans it celebrated in the streets for their film topping the indie charts.

"Helvetica" globetrots around England, the Netherlands, Germany, Switzerland, the US, France and Belgium, and takes a closer look at typography and graphic with design. The film examines how the ubiquity of one typeface in the world today affects people's lives. (You can get a few visual snacks of the docu in YouTube) "Helvetica is a club, it's a mark of membership, a badge," says one of the illustrious interviewees in the film. This 2 admittedly OC examination of a 1,1 typeface is a statement of a much bigger dialogue on the global de-

wor Is of graphs art ... psychology and communication All right, give inmental processing.

The state of the s

I'm sua trying to wrap my braiaround the concept of "font I ms. Ay those Wingdings



The font phenomenon

The Helvetica typeface gets its name from Helvetica, the Latin палле Switzerland,

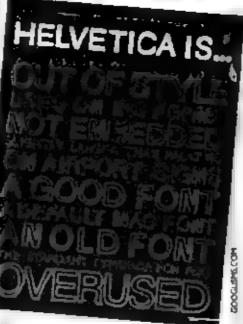
where it was created in 1957 for the Haas Type Poundry, At that time, Swiss design was experiencing a surge in popularity, and this font soon after ap-

peared in corporate logos, airport signages, BTIC transportation systems. In 1984, it became and is the default font of Ap-Macintosh, ple. thereby further cementing its omnipresence.

Now, there are some really impassioned stalwarts in the design industry who have great reasons to love or loathe the typeface. One camp hails Helvetica as a design masterpiece that will never be topped, while the other camp views "Hel-f***in-vebca" as a sig-







ruffer of a creative drought, an easy solution for lazy creatives.

Comic relief

Such passion for typeface has likewise fueled anti-font campaigns. (Teehee! All this type hype is secretly exciting!) The Ban Comic Sans movement, which is "putting the sans in Comic Sans," wishes to put an end to the "epidemic of abuse" by urging people to stop using the playful, rounded font, Comic Sans, which was released by Microsoft in 1995, was originally designed for comic book style talk bubbles. Its spread and growing popularity was enough to incur a collective annoyance, and instigate revolt.

Ban Comic Sans declares, "these widespread abuses of printed type threaten to erode the very foundations upon which centuries of typographic history are built." Bringing it down to lay-

man's terms, one impassioned anti-Comic sans video petition declares, "it's an annoying font. It is 1/3 larger than ordinary fonts. And the "C" is literally a semi-circle." (Well I'll be damned, the devil really is in the derails,) The video goes on imagining a Comic Sans-dominated world, with the Hol-

lywood sign looking like it was torn from a cartoon strip, and McDonalds resembling a bad mushroom trip.

Is all this much abuzz about nothing? Apparently not, if I were to judge by conversations among peers in the industry. One such starry-eyed font fan is Isabel Gatusiao, Hyatt's PR Manager, and design academic who first tipped me off about the film, "Helvetica." She pointed out that Helvetica is used everywhere, like the

Lufthansa logo, the MRT at another and even Team Mainla's hypercock product in-

Others, the Beauty Ecutor (and ciose comrade: Cat Juan offered that she liked Helverica, but pri ferred Aria. Pve since then learned that she first Millhouspe Arial was created in 1982 and his been doggedly accused by foncies as a "Helvenca copycat." I think it just got a typeface-lift.

Personally, I prefer Arral, but I'm more of a Trebucher MS kinda person. I pledged my aliegrance to Trebuchet in the late 90s, while working as a copywriter in a design studio. My creative director back then had forbidden the use of

Times New Roman in any document or layout, because he believed at promoted a default way of thinking. And so, I shot the senf.

Happy mundane

We see thousands of words everyday of our lives and yet we don't realize the psychology behind the aesthetics; the emotions started by design. Font fanaticism,

more than a silly First World fixation propagated by design nerds, is emblemane of the global visual cult. A tech-savvy, global visualculture, that is,

50 years of style

1957-2007

it's a case for championing both substance and style, which people have a tendency of divorcing, rather than recognizing the value of merging both. If something as quotidian as typeface has a subliminal impact in our everyday lives, then just imagine the impact of a creative class with an enhanced design sensibility.

It's a refreshing possibility. The





E HAVE JUST ZIPPED THROUGH another month. Not a great behever in coincidences, I find it ironic that as we focus on speed this weekend I have just passed through the slow, sleepy town of Assisi in Italy, and have, over subscribed to the more rigid norms that

dozen churches. Being a flexible Catholic, I can appreciate certain aspects of the religion that I was born into but remain clueless (by choice) of many others. One tradition (no idea of the source) that I grew up with was the wish-making associated when entering a church. for the first time. There are many versions of this ritual, some say you make one wish, and some say three. Suffice to say, the latter quantity is what I opted for each and every time I found myself in front of the nth al-

tar for the day. During this quasi pilgrimage I had a chance to observe my companions and a thousand strangers entering and exiting each of these fustoric and significant houses of worship. There were those of course who went in as it was part of the tour they had spent X amount of Euros on There were the local tourists who

entered and, depending on the level of their faith, opted to sit down, say a prayer, or just take a photo (no flash) and then make their way back outside. For me, the visits were a combination of both, a chance to digitally document some masterpieces in art and architecture and also, on a more personal note, to slow down, take a break and indulge in the solemnity and sheer energy of a space that has housed over a milion prayers and represented a steady vestibule of hope.

Like a Prayer

To have faith is to believe, without a shadow of a doubt, in an intangible happy ever after Wishes, like prayers, are said when nothing else in the physical world can help you so you throw your heart's desire not into the wide open flux of the divine. Wish granted? Some people ask for a sign, while some are content with the from up above. Believe it or not.

miowiedke mur out there has already heard and all they have to do is believe

Paith is a funny, albeit powerful emotion. In my case, it has certainly lifted me over some of the more challenging potholes in my existence even if I have never the last two weeks, been inside over a govern beneving in God or a higher entity.

The wishes that I ve said in silence I know have been jotted down and one day I will come to realize if they have indeed been granted Of course, the "wait" or as a very wise friend of mine pointed out the incorrigible "in-between" stage is the hardest part, and this again is where putting your trust in the unknown (but still knowing—if that makes any sense at all) has to come into play.

I Saw the Sign

So, how do we trust? Just saying to think positive sounds as shallow as the almost casual way people use soul searching nowadays. "Letting go" is a phrase that makes sense but isn't easy to do, we revert back to old habits in order to find reassurance or affirmation that what we want we will get, and ASAP Be patient? Try watching paint dry and you will see how easy that is es -pecially when you are thor-

oughly convinced that your life will be so much better once wish 1-1000 is delivered to your doorstep.

the time it takes from realizing what we want and actually getting it, is to grow up. To fully accept (with no sarcasm and rolling of eyes) that everything does happen for a reason and that the sooner we find out what that reason is we can better discern what to really wish. To put into full and utter benef that an omnipotent Santa Claus is making his or her list (and that we are on it) is the best we can hope



By Wanggo Gallaga

.NCE AIRING 26 YEARS AGO, MTV has had to reinvent itself over and over. In the 90s. it was the go-to for everything new, hip and avant-garde. Now, it shares that space with YouTube and Facebook. In the early parts of this decade, MTV went wild and crazy with shows like Jackass and Punk'D. But eventually even they ran out of antics and stunts. It's an awkward transitory phase as technology has levelled the playing field and people run to either MTV or the World Wide Web for their trendsspotting. MTV now prepares for its next logical reinvention.

And so, as with many things in this world, everyone is turning towards advocacy. It's now cool to get off your asses and help others. Adopt a refugee baby or raise money in the fight against breast cancer. MTV rides this wave of goodwal and lends its trademark camera work and super fast visuals to a documentary with the hopes of ending human

People as trading goods

MTV Exit is a campaign that was launched in Europe in 2004 that aims to open up people's eyes on human traffic and to prevent it from happening. The campaign included a documentary presented by Angeana Jolie, the screening of fictional



AN EXIT or a trap?

short films, public service announcements and live events Human trafficking is not getting

stuck in line at the bank or at your (insert favorite fast food chain here) The United Nations has defined human trafficking as "the recruitment, transportation, and receipt of a person for sexual or economical exploitation by force, fraud, coercion, or deception." It's using people as trading goods. It's a criminal act that victimizes 2.5 million people at any one time and makes roughly 10 bilhon US dollars a year. It's second to illegal drugs. Most of the time, the victims are Asians who are looking for a better life somewhere.

MTV will air "Traffic," a documentary that details the human traffick ing issue in Asia by following the stories of the victims. It starts with Anna, who was taken from her home in the Philippines and sold into prostithuon. There is Eka, an Indonesian woman who was mislead into taking a job as a domestic helper in Singapore only to discover she was sold as

arresting presentation style of MTV to tell the dark and horrifying tales of people placked from poverty into something even worse. And it's just ke MTV to know exactly how much o show and what to withhold from its audience. At the end of the documentary, I wanted to know more How did they end up interviewing in actual human trafficker? What happened to him? Did they jail the 21-year-old Taiwanese kid who likes to pay big bucks to have sex with abducted girls? What are A.ma, Eka and Min Aung doing now? As always, MTV has its finger on how people want to see things.

US Ambassador to the Philippines Kristie Kenney commended MTV for "using popular entertainment as a means to educate people," MTV takes advantage of its sway on the youth to make important changes. As a pop culture brand, it is a logical step that if it were to raise awareness of this crime, well, tell it to the kids If "Traffic" gets aired between the next Beyonce video and the new single of Kanye West, the message is bound to get across. Advocacy, after a.l, is the new cool.

"Traffic". An MTV EXIT Special presented by Christian Baufista (English version) will premiere on MTV Philippines on Oct. 18 at 8:30p.in. and will be repeated on Oct. 20, 9:30 p.m., Oct. 27 at 1 p.m. and Oct. 29 at 5 30 p.m. The Tagatog version will air on Oct. 24 at 3 30 p.m. and Nov. 2 at 10



ILLUSTRATION BY DAE JEE

Perhaps the best thing we can all do, in

As I light another candle in one of the last churches of my mp, I look up and make my wishes and see sunlight slowly spreading across the ceiling and frescos. I feel like I've just received a knowing smirk



TWENTY QUESTIONS. Elliot at the press conference



IN FRONT of shutterbugs and under the spotlights at Market Market.

SIGNED album

FRAN KATICBAK

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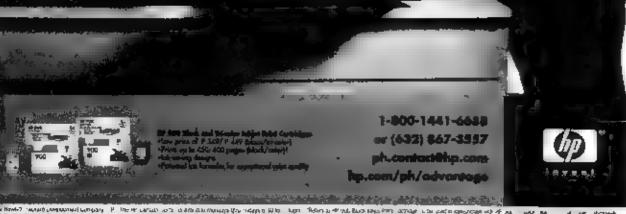
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TriNoma

Look who's flying with Super





DDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2007

From page D1

outside [the label company]

I'm just really working out the music and let my team on the outside handle all the other stuff I'm not worried about being a one-hit wonder. We're going to release our second single from my record here soon in the next few weeks and I think that's going to be a hit. We'll just have to take it from there, take it a day at a time.

I think I have the ability to have a little bit of staying power in this business. My voice has a timeless, classic sound to it that people really enjoy and I think that will be what helps keep me around.

I also want to work with other artists and make appearances on somebody else's songs and records and collaborate with more people.

Did it bother you that Chris Daughtry, who was eliminated before you in "AI" Season 5, signed up to a record label and released an album before you did?

No, not at all. It wasn't a race to see who could put out music first the quickest. It never has been and it never will be. Once you're out of the show, the popularity contest was over. It was all about taking care of business and making sure I had everything lined up to become a recording artist and to put out music of my own.

In all honesty, first and foremost, I'm really happy for Chris and all the success he has experienced. I think that he helped pave the way for me and for everybody else from our season who have come out with albums. Him blowing up and getting all the success he's got has been great.

How was the "American Idol"

tour? It was amazing. We did 50 shows all over the country. Every night we'd be sold out and we'd be singing to 12 to 15 or 16 thousand people a night. Personally, the tour was able to

really help my skills onstage. I learned so much about touring and about the business, and about performing, singing and taking care of my voice. Everything you could possibly learn I learned. thought being on American Idol, which was the first step, it was the greatest thing but then as you go out on tour and meet the fans for a change, doing all that was the best experience.

How about your album tour?

That was amozing. Every day is a tour for my album. Every day is a promotional day. If you have a record out, you're promoting it all the time. What we did about three months ago, we went on a radio tout. We visned as many radio stations as we could, which really helped set up sales for the record and get more people familiar with my music.

Did you expect this kind of welcome in the Philippines?

I did, but only because I knew how other Idols were received here. I'm really close friends with José Sway Peñala. He actually stayed with me for a week in my house in LA. He's coming out on the road with us on tour to sing backup. He's told me how Filipinos are and how they'll receive me here.

How do you compare performing on the "Idol" stage against performing on the album tour?

It's different because you have to un derstand it's a TV show first. There's not a big audience. You're really more playing to the camera lens. It's hard to fathom how fans are out there, how many people are watching you, but knowing that there are millions of people watching the show is a little unnerving. I think now I'm able to sing with ease, without being too nervous I'm singing my own music and I'm not being judged on TV, so it (performing) comes a lot more easy and natura.

Describe your music. Can you say your album was everything you'd

I would describe my music as being very soulful. It's a singer's type of a.bum I think any vocalist can really appreciate the vocal standpoint of the record. It's just genuinely good music that's natural to do. It comes from the heart and is very soulfu.

If a major label offered you a contract, would you take it?

I have one more [record] to go on my independent label [Hickory Records] And I want to continue doing it the way we're doing it for years to come. I like to have my own labe, one of these days and introduce the world to new artists-but that's later on down the line. I'm not even thinking about that right now. The situation would have to be right and it would have to be right in order [for me] to take it. Right now I'm. not too focused on big labels or who'll come knocking. There's still a lot of work left to do on this record and that's where my focus is at.



IN THIS ISSUE **■** Fantasy series, 'Lastikman' and 'Zaido,' compared/F6



Editor Nestor U. Torre • Assistant Editor Rito P. Asilo

Text as year feedbasts inquirer sat name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart) E-mail: pr_saturday_special@inquirer.com.ph





CONCEPCION. Has a streak of independence that emboldened her to spend four years alone. abroad. DOGHOBNACI

comes into her own in 'celebrity reality' special

By Nestor U. Torre

are popular in the US, with stars allowing camera crews to follow them everywhere for months. Viewers just love "peeping" into celebrities' private lives, hence the popularity of such reality programs.

On Philippine TV screens, the relatively new program type is not yet all that established, aside from celebrity wedding coverages.

Therefore, when we heard that had a light, bright way of dovetailing "CELEBRITY REALITY" TV SHOWS special about KC Concepcion's stant as memorable years in the City of Lights. a student in Paris, we made it a point to catch the show last Sept. 23, seeing mother Sharon's own sunny projection it as a precursor of other "celebrity re- when she was a teenager. At first, viewality" productions to come.

Bubbly personality

The special's strongest suits were the relentlessly race to be believed. beautiful city of Paris and KC's own bubbly personality. The Parisian sights fea-

Channel 2 was producing a reality them into her recollections of her four

KC's personality is reminiscent of her ers were caught off guard by all that cheerfulness, and some accused the young Sharon of faking it, of being too

Hindsight now tells us that those accusations were wrong, that Sharon was tured were truly eye-catching and KC truly a giving, sharing person-so, that

gets KC off the hook, since we must now also believe that her own cheerfulness is the real McCoy.

Having gotten that out of the way, we must now conclude that KC is indeed her mother's daughter-but, with unique fillips of her own.

Prospect

For one, she has a streak of independence that emboldened her to spend four years alone abroad-not a

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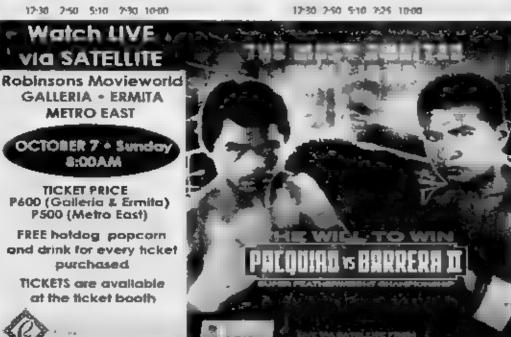
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6 THE BRAVE ONE

2 A LOVE STORY

4 UNDERDOG **5 SKINWALKERS** 6 STOMP THE YARD DIRECTOR'S CUT

Raya Martin finds challenge in exploring, experimenting

By Ronald G. Mangubat

YOU EITHER LOVE OR HATE Raya Martin's movies. In recent interviews, the 23-year-old writer-director of "Autohystoria," recently shown at the Cinemanila festival, admits that this is true

A lover of experimental and avant garde cinema, Martin, the first Filipino filmmaker to be accepted at the Cinefondation Résidence of the Cannes Film Festival, finds challenge in exploring and experimenting with new filmmaking styles. He explains: "I like veering away from the norm to express new concepts and ideas."

Martin graduated from the University of the Philippines Film Institute in 2005. He first worked. as a writer and researcher for television shows, newspapers, radio programs and online magazines.

His short film, "The Visit," won the Ishmeel Bernal Award for Young Cinema at the 2004 Cinemanua International Film Festival, and his docu, "The Island at the End of the World," won best documentary at the 2005 mov International Digital Film Pestiva.

Retrospective

His first feature film, "Short Film about the Indio Nacional (Or The Prolonged Sorrow of the Fil-(correst was the line threefter Award at the 2006 Pesaro Internanonal Film Festival, Italy This year, the Buenos Aires Festival Internacional de Cine Independiente featured a retrospective of his films.

The filmmaker is currently in the preproduction stage of his latest project, "Independencia," which recently received the Prince Claus Film Grant of the Internanonal Film Festival in Rotterdam. Excerpts from our interview:

What "Autohystoria" įs about?

It's essentially a reenactment of the execution of Andres Bonifacio and his brother. Procopio, in 1897, but it's also about me and my brother. I thought of the idea of defining dreams in filmic terms, the same way many filmmakers would adapt reality to film.

How many films have you made?

I've done three full-length features: "The Island at the End of the World" is a documentary on Itbayat, the last inhabited island in northern Philippines, which is part of Batanes; "Short film about the Indio Nacional" is set in the Revolution, and "Autohystona."

Mysterious identity

I also have a couple of short Lore Reyes' "Aswang." films: "Bakasyon," about a city girl who discovers her grandmother's mysterious identity in the province "Life Projections" is an experimental film on the Guimaras oil spil., and "Track Projections" is about travelling phy? abroad.

KC comes...

comfortable prospect for many young people to the manor born. She also dared to get to know her US-based father, Gabby, after years of estrangement. We don't know about you, but we think that took guts.

Qualities

On her Paris special, KC demonstrated those qualities in action in different situations, so the show was generally involving and occasionally eventful.

On the minus side, the special was too long for its relatively slight subject matter, and the stretching showed. There were also too many details—KC even pointed to the chair on which she sat for one of her classes at her school. Honestly, we're not that inter-

ested in everything she did there,

MARTIN, 'Anything and

everything is possible."

What keeps you busy these

I'm shooting three feature films billed as one-it's a collection of stones from my childhood, as well as about filmmaking. I'm also developing "Independencia," a family drama set in the woods during the American occupation.

Tell us about your Cannes

The experience changed me, not only as a filmmaker, but as a person. It was my first time to be away from the country by myself for almost six months, having just graduated from the university, I was culture-shocked

Different cultures

Cinefondation is the most world Martin Scorsese and Abbas Kiarostami are two of its leaders. Pierre Viot, who heads the foundation, was Cannes' festival director for many years. I learned about international coproductions, pitching and presentation, art and film aesthetics, and I was fearning about different cultures at the same time.

How has Kidlat Tahimik, one of your mentors, influenced your work?

His influence was more on attitude towards filmmaking. His vision is uncompromisingwhich is the most important lesson I learned from him!

What drove you to filmmak-

When I was younger, I used to do still photography and played with the analog video camera. I have an affinity for images. At the time, I thought the only way to get into filmmaking was through film school, but I eventually learned that wasn't true. By then, I had already graduated from the university, saw many films, and met people.

Are you willing to make full-1890s just before the Philippine length mainstream features?

Yes The horror genre fascinates me. I'd love to do something like Peque Gallaga and

What advice can you give to people who want to pursue filmmaking? Anything and everything is

possible What is your film philoso-

Life is film, and film is life

From page E1

and the show suffered from a surfeit of less-than-tantalizing trivia.

Friendship

But, the special ended on a high note, with KC revealing her friendship with an OCW named Leslie, who had worked in Paris for years to enable her daughters back home to complete their studies. By Leslie's own reckoning, she had seven more years of servitude before she could go home. It was instructive to see KC re-

laning so personally to Leske, even if they came from different worlds. And her friendship with the OCW added more warmth to her already appealing persona, revealing the thoughtfulness and ability to empathize behind her dazzang smile. -Her mother's daughter, indeed.

Rico Ilarde...

see people falling in love with him, because they'll see his vuinerability. Malaki ang emotional investment niya, and he's in great physical shape-just like a real boxer!" The film was shot in eight days.

It has been a rough but satis-

From page E3

fying ride for Harde, who's been trying to break into the movie industry since 1998. He doesn't mind getting labeled as a horror director. He reasons, "If the label comes with me getting some respect in this industry, I'll take it!"

Subjective coverage on TV

SATURDAYSpecial

Rico Ilarde pulls another indie surprise

By Nestor U. Torre

HAVE YOU NOTICED? SHOW biz-oriented task shows on TV profess to report all of the hottest entertainment news as completely as possible—but, when the event involves a network or its rival, that's far from what viewers actually get

Channel A, the channel sometimes delays reporting it, or presents a sanitized, self-

exculpating version. For its part, its rival, Channel B, goes to town whipping the event up into a scandal, the better to denigrate its rival.

Point of view

This is understandable from the competitive point of view, but unacceptable on point of broadcast journalism's vaunted standards of objective reportage.

Instead of being of scrupulous service to viewers in this regard, competitive channels sometimes cover up their errors or ash out at rivals to emerge victors in the ratings and image games.

The wonder is that many viewers take this subjective coverage without complaining, hilled by their cluelessness, or by the mistaken notion that this is "just" show biz news and scandal, after all, so it shouldn't be taken seriously

This is an unfortu nate misconception, because show business has become one of the most influentia. fields in the nation's corlective life-like it

or lump it. So, the shoddy compromised and behavior seen on TV could cynically influence some viewers to be similarly cavaller about principles and nues in their own spheres of activity.

Game show

The latest such "he said, he said* event "covered" or "covered up" on show biz talk shows and even on some evening newscasts is the a. tercation between Willie Revillame and Joey de Leon over a perceived booboo in the handling of Wilhes game show.

Each talent's respective channel ralhed to his side, and appeared to see the booboo from differperspectives, leaving viewers in the dark as to what had really transpired.

This is unformnate, because news reports are precisely supposed to provide objective service When channels take sides too loyally or defensively, viewer loses out.

The same thing happened with the Ruffa-Yilmaz spl.t. Ruffa's channel underscored her hurt and battered feelings, while the rival channel presented Yllmaz's side,

Even when viewers switched back and forth for both versions, confusion continued to reign in this other "he said, she said" contretemps.

Evidence

Viewers looked around for a channel that would present both sides and objectively analyze the evidence at hand, but little such dispassionate coverage was to be had

Again, the strange thing is that, most viewers appear to accept this subjective state of affairs as "just the way it goes."

In so doing, they are shortchanging themselves and end up enabling TV channels to continue "spinning" the show biz news, leaving the viewing public What happens is, if the event in the dark. Let there be light!

By Rica Arevalo

FOR ALMOST A DECADE NOW, RICO Harde has been carving his own niche in the film industry with his peculiar way of cinematic storytelling. But, the filmmaker is not through coming up with surprises.

Ilarde has just finished shooting "Altar," his entry to this year's Cinema One film fest, which stars Zanjoe Marudo as a disgraced Filipino boxer who comes home af- us the freedom to ter he accidentally kills an opponent in the

To make ends meet, he applies for work doing repairs on an isolated house at the outskirts of Metro Manila. This is where he meets the character of Nor Domingo. The foreman (Dido dela Paz) who hired them has only one stern warning: Don't go to the basement at all cost! They are soon haunted by a ghost (Dimples Romana).

Appreciative |

Why did he join Cinema One? He relates: "Ronald Arguelles has been repeatedly asking me to submit an entry. Cinema Onegave

shoot our entries the way we wanted, and the people behind it were appreciative and supportive even during the scripting stagel Plus, the release of money came MARUDO, Plays a on time."



boxer in "Altar"

Initially, Ilarde had reservations about hiring Marudo, but the pros eventually outweighed the cons. He explains: "Zanjoe has been a pleasant surprise He's a solid performer-he's a natural, I can



those who will bank our suppliers our tel. I Join AIT (FURRY) LO 'T. AFFAIR Writing Contest

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-4

SATURDAYSpecial

Kaisa's hit musical revue vivifies Chinese-Filipino

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Community's aspirations

LAST SEPT 14 AND 15, THE
Chinese-Filipino community
was enthralled by the first three

presented by the Kaisa Para sa Kaunlaran Foundation at its own theater in Intramuros.

The show dazzled SRO audiences with its exhilarating kalendoscope of scenes and songs that beautifully vivifies a wide range of the Chinese-Filipino experiences, issues and involve-

ments, culminating in a dramatic focus on volunteer firefight-

performances of a musical revue

Raves

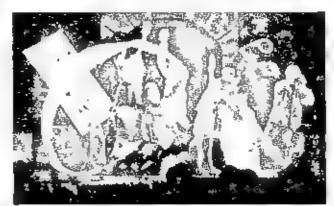
Written and directed by Nestor U. Torre, with songs composed by Jun Murillo, the "Kaisa Ka" musical revue won raves from members of the audience, prompting the Kaisa Roundation to schedule four more performances on Nov. 4 and 6 at popular prices, so that students, young professionals and the general public can also enjoy the acclaimed presentation.

George Yang, owner of the McDonald's franchise in the country, urged every Chinese-Filipino to see the show. He also recommends that Kaisa "promote the show to Filipinos so that they would have a better understanding" of the Chinese-Filipino experience.

Jose Man Chan shared." "It was wonderful to work with



(FROM TOP) Helen Benoza, Mica Torre and Eva Poon in a dramatic musical highlight from the Legend of the Pagoda mini-Chinese opera.



THE "INCANTATION" production number magically leads viewers into the distant past.

MASSACRE scene moved some

WU SHU champions in unique

members of the audience to

such talented, dedicated and hardworking people. It was a great show! I'll be here for the November run!"

Met Tinggro gushed. "I was

Mer Trangco gushed, "I was like a attle girl mesmerized by the optica, illusion of the martial arts tableau in black and white!"

Dr Mano Mielat, UP Dilman described the show as "a beautiful musical played wonderful y by an enthus astic, talented ensemble If we say history is written by victors, the musical shows how the Chinoy—as a concept, reality and identity—has become part of a victorious Philippine nation."

Therese Tan. "Ang ganda talagat Original! At par, even better than other leading productions. Highly recommended for all Chinese schools and Chinese-Fil pino organizations to sponsor and attend

Historical aspects

Cynthia Ongpin Valdes: "Very moving, with humor, also very inspiring. The Pagoda scene brings us closer to the poignancy and sorrow of the families left behind by the Chinese migrants. A very entertaining show with historical aspects, it depicts depths of feeling."

Mely Co shared that she related personally to the scene depicting the marriage between a Chinoy and Pinoy

Ateneo de Manifa University sums up what Ka.sa's show wants to say: "It is a triumphant celebration and a profound message conveyed by the dedicated and determined service of the different sectors of the Ch. nese-Filipino community."

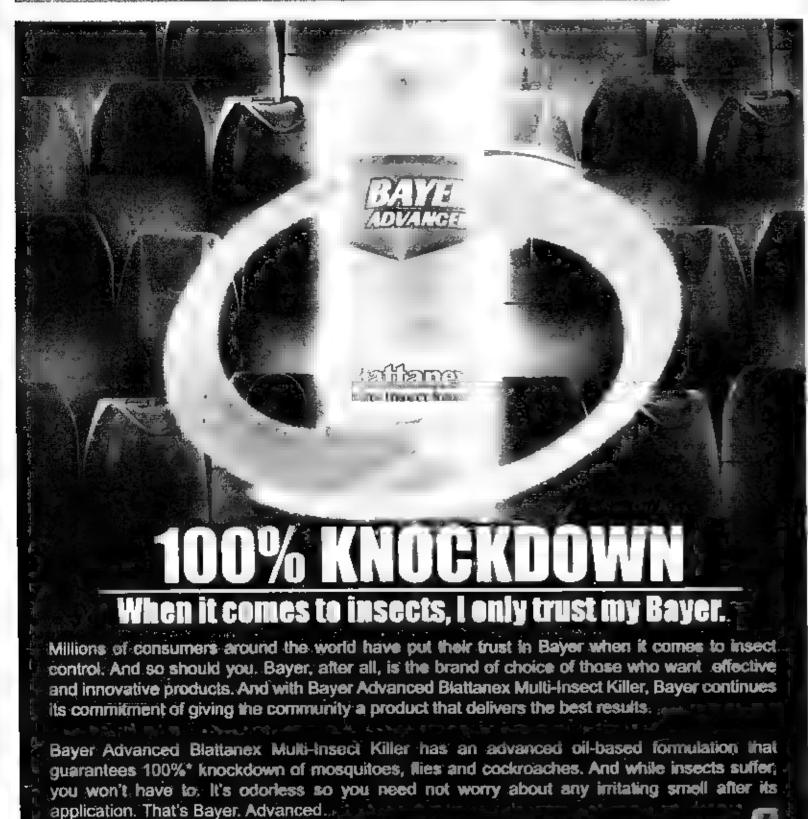
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Jodie Foster avoids gossip by being 'boring'

ing," Jodie Foster answered with a laugh when she was asked why she rarely figures in gossip columns.

The actress is anything but boring, as she demonstrated in our interview with her. In Toronto for the film festival premiere of her movie, "The Brave One," the Yale University magna cum laude graduate talked about topics we don't always read about or hear her discuss-being a mother to two boys (Charles, 9, and Kit, who turns 6 today), how she managed to avoid the child-star syndrome and become a successful and sane adult thespian-and

Subject matter

The latter subject matter was fueled by the theme and title of her vigilante film, "The Brave One," She portrays a social commentator on radio who avenges the murder of her boyfriend. She buys a gun and starts killing the lowlifes she encounters on the streets of New York.

When we asked Terrence Howard to comment on her award-winning co-star in a separate interview, he gave a re-



vealing and insightful answer. "Jodie is very private. Even when she shares herself with you, she still holds back 90 percent of herself. But, the 10 percent encompasses so much more than the average person can imagine sharing.

"I don't know if I could even hold the 10 percent that she shared with mel But, she was generous in the fact that she led me through what a lead actor does in a film, in the same way that Robert Downey Jr. did for me in 'Iron Man' She showed me the proper steps to take."

The actor added, "I was guided by her determination to stay true to the character. The truth of the storyline mattered to her more than what looked great on camera. Jodie and Robert are two actors I revere the most! They fight for the truth. Let the character fail and die, but keep the story

true-no matter what happens?" Jodie's director, Neil Jordan ("The Crying Game"), saw her practical side: "She gets instruc-

tions very quickly. She's smart and tireless. She never goes off to her trauer. She does not have many assistants. She just waits in the street while you work on your shot." Excerpts from our interview

You are one of few major Hollywood stars who rarely figure in gossip columns. The common explanation is, you command a lot of respect. What's yours?

I'm boring (laughter). Honestly, it's a combination of many things, I'm also 45 years old, so I'm not Lindsay Lohan. I'm not as interesting as the young people out there who are awake at 10 o'clock at night while I'm asleep (laughter)

Very hard lessons

I've been in the public eye since I was 3 years old. You learn some very hard lessons at an early age about how important it is to compartmentalize your life. You make sure you have your life-and that it's not taken away from you by the circus of celebrity.

You're the model of a child

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actress who started very young, yet you successfully transitioned into a responsible adult actress. What do you think when you see young actors failing to keep it together?

It was a different time when I was growing up. When I was 18-stupid, crazy, living in New York, staying out late and all that stuff-people didn't have lenses this long (she opened her arms wide). And they didn't follow me around, Also, 18-year-olds then didn't make so much money.

Opportunities

At the time, if you were doing teen movies, you weren't worth much because they wanted to wait and see who you were going to evolve into as an actor. You were given the time to become meaningful as an actor, to make mistakes, to try the legitimate stage and dabble in different types of movies. I don't think young people these days are given those opportunities.

Also, I had people who loved and protected me. Kids now need people who would love them way more than I was. I'm not sure if that is always present

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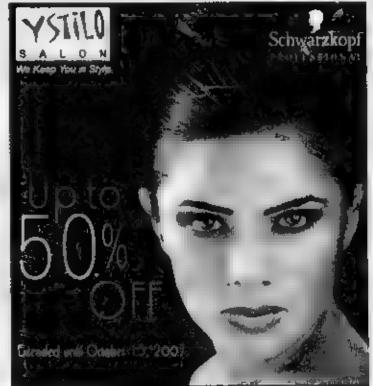
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Baptismal weddings, very conversational paintings and other boob-tube booboos

By Nestor U. Torre

HOST: WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO SHOW US TODAY?

Guest: How to do a complete make-over for a special occasion, so you will look elegant and stand out.

Host: Like what kind of occasion? Guest: Like, if you attend a baptismal wedding! (A baptismal wedding? -And baby makes three?)

Host: Tell us more about yourself.

Guest: Well, I'm a lawyer-I am married-and I am three children!



there!) Host: What is your personal style in interior decoration?

Guest: What sets me apart is my use of many paintings in interior decor.

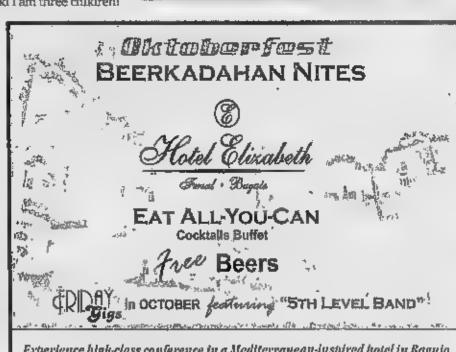
Host: Why do you like paintings? Guesta

many reasons: They're very artisticthey're also a good invest-

ment —and to have an art piece in your room is very conversation-

(Conversational paintings? How -unconventional!)

Host: With so many political and financial scandais exploding all around us, what can we, the people, do?



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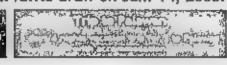
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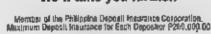


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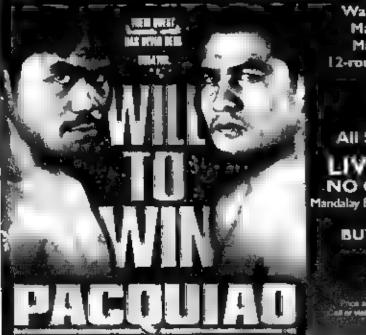
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Catch the Cineplex Special

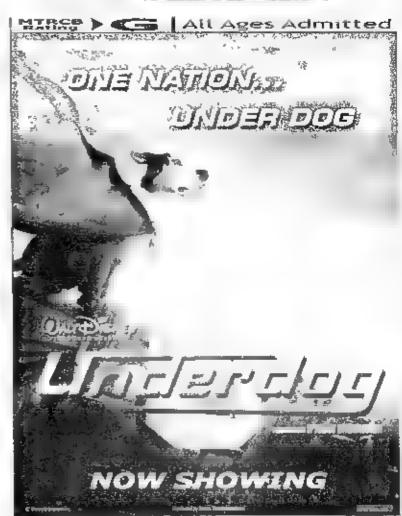
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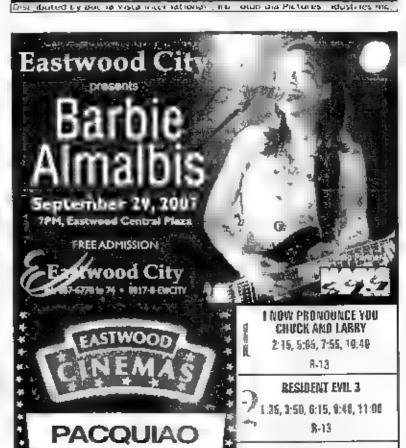
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ARE YOU HAVING difficulty remembering things? Do you feel tired al. the time? You may be suffering from dehydration

Water can be used as preventive therapy. It's so entical to body metabolism that the lack of it can trigger problems that result in slow recall tiredness, constipation, formation of kidney stones and cancer

Basic facts

In Jane Scrivner's book, "Water Detox," she describes basic facts about water dehy dration that people should know. Here are some of them

 On a hot day, a person can sweat up to 16 glasses of water per day.

 Not drinking enough water can lead to dry and itchy skin, tiredness upon waking, and fatigue during the day.

 We lose as much water when we're sleeping as when we're awake Therefore, waking up, drink water and hydrate yourself well. · Lack of water

is the primary cause of tiredness

 Eight to 10 glasses of water a day could ease up to 80 percent of general aches and pains Water is not only a thirst quencher, it's also a pain reliever

 It only takes a two percent drop in hydration to slow down recall This can cause trouble with performing basic math and focus Students and office workers should be encouraged to drink water for their mental and physica. well-being. It's bet ter to have water breaks than coffee breaks to improve productivity and performance.

 Five glasses of water a day decrease the risk of colon cancer by 45 percent Five glasses of

water a day cut the risk of breast cancer by 79 per cent Five glasses of

water a day reduce the risk of bladder cancer by 50 percent.

Critical

Although water is critical to normal body functions, it's sad to note that approximately 90 percent of the world's population is chronically dehydrated. Worse, there are

many ads encouraging people to consume co.as, coffee and beer, but there's no ad te..ing people to drink water. But, this can be re-

versed. We need to develop proper water drinking habits. I have friends who always bring water bottles with them and set an amount to consume daily Educators, health personnel, office managers and parents can play a major role in training people under their care to hydrate properly.

Drinking the right amount of water can improve the quality of life. Let's have a water toast to that: Happy drinking!

SATURDAYSpecial

Jodie Foster avoids gossip by being 'boring' From page F1

in their lives. I ask this sometimes of grownup actors: "Didn't somebody tell them not to do that?" Because I have to tell you, I grew up with people telling me not to do things!

I grew up with my mom who had rules about certain things, like when you're done for the day on the set, you hang up your clothes. Don't just leave them in a pile on the floor! I had a thousand rules on how one should behave as a professional, or how you make sense of a world that has no reality to it. I mean, peopie bring you cappuccinos 25 times a day-that's not real life! That was my soap box for today.

Mother

What does being a mother of two boys

There's a lot of cooking, picking up their clothes, taking them to places, disciplining, helping with the homework, and taking care of them.

What do you like to do for fun?

We like to ski. They love animals, so we take them to wildafe preserves or we go

Marriage is touched on in the beginning of "The Brave One." What are your views on marriage?

Gosh, I'm so not the person to ask for social commentary. I really have no idea. I came from a single-parent family. I don't necessarily think that's the ideal way to live life-but that's the way it was with my mom-I'm here and I'm not crazy (laughing).

How brave are you? I don't think I'm brave at all. I'm fearless in my work, but my work is not reality-it's art. I'm brave about my art, but I don't know if I'm brave in life. Maybe that's why I'm compelled to do things in films that allow me to explore the other sides of myse.f. I don't know if I'd survive if those things re-

Getting ready for a younger look

STREET

SMART

Mandy

Navasero

COSMETIC SURgeon Dr Raul Guanzon says the best time to get a facelift is when you feel you're ready for it. A facelift is not a one-. shot deal-a patient still has to go through post-opera-, tive care, monitoring and mainte-

One has to be psychologically prepared

for this, adds Guanzon, who has been a cosmenc surgeon for 20 years. The feeling of being ready usually happens when one reaches 40 and older.

Guanzon notes that a growing number of women in their 30s have been availing of preventative facelift in order to prolong their youthful appearance

Improvement

In contrast, while a person who undergoes a face.ift in his late 50s will still display remarkable improvement after the surgery, his muscles will be overstretched, so the improvement won't last as long as with a younger patient

Guanzon's next advice: Shop around for a good cosmetic surgeon. Make sure you know where your physician was trained. What are his qualifications? Get referrals from satisfied

patients. According to Dr. Guanzon, the major areas that normally benefit from a facelift are. The upper face (from the forehead to the eyebrow), the mid-face or beauty area (which involves the nose, eyes and cheeks), and the lower face and neck (where aging takes the form of jow. .ines)

There are also procedures that remove unsightly eyebags, make the eyes deep-set, enhance the nose, reduce or enhance the lips. For more complicated procedures, there are operations for body contouring and breast augmentation

For working people who prefer install ment payments on their procedure of choice, there are "beauty loans" available.

For more information, visit Dr. Guanzon's Cosmetic Surgery and Laser Center in San Juan (Suite 301, Greenhills Mansion, 37 Annapolis st., Greenhills), Libis (second floor, WebJet b.dg , Acropolis, Libis), or Bacolod City (No. 12 12th st., Bacolod City) Ca.l 722-4972 or 683-0448

Join the Batanes Photo Safari on Dec. 27 30 when the sea is placid. Or join the scheduled trips from January to May 2008.

Email mandynavasera@yahoo.com, or

catl 899-1767



GUANZON. "Preventative surgical procedure prolongs youthful appearance."



FOSTER (WITH CO-STAR TERRENCE HOWARD, RIGHT). Topbills Neil Jordan's vigilante drama, "The Brave One."

ally happened in the real world!

Have you ever felt total fear? How do you deal with your fears?

I've definitely felt total fear in my life But, it's not something that rules me. We all had moments of fear in our lives-like fear

for your children, for example.

There are lines in "The Brave One" that are so beautiful. My character says, "I used to think that fear belonged to other people, weaker people. Then one day, it touched me! When it touches you, you know it's been there all along!"

What are the scariest things you've

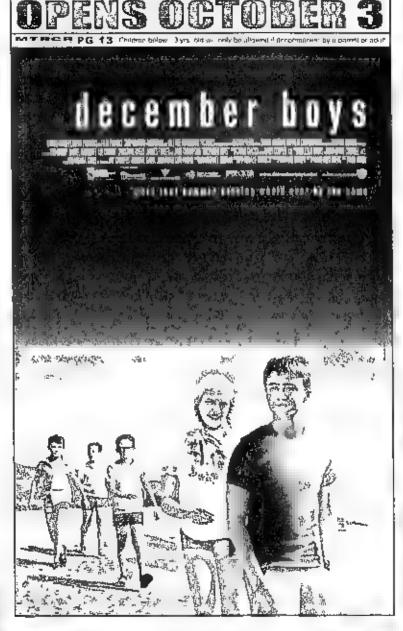
The scary things that I love to do are skiing and scuba diving. They're beautiful expressions of the body, but if you don't pay attention, you're going to die (laughing)!

Have you owned a hand gun?

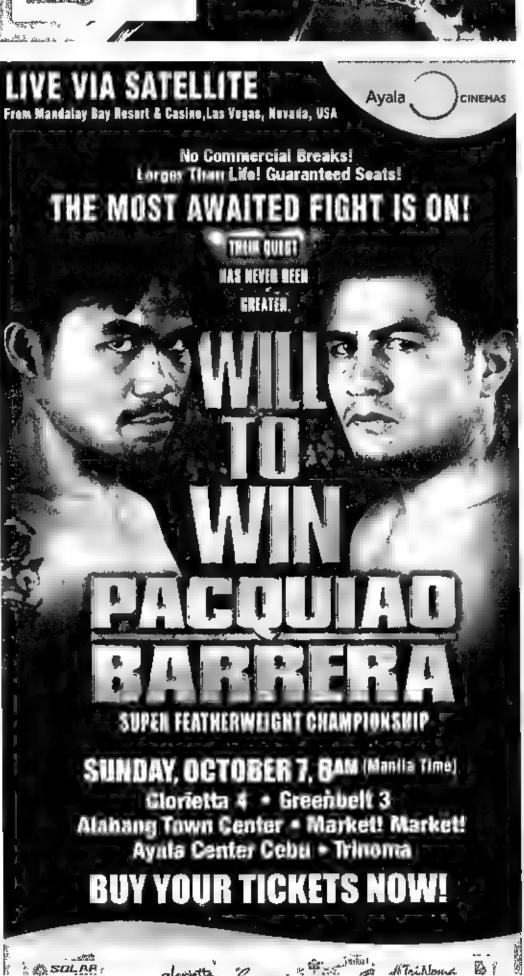
Yes, I have when I was too young to understand what a mistake that was. As soon as I did understand, I got rid of the gun! What was the mistake?

I don't believe that guns should be in the hands of numan beings. I don't want anything underneath my fingertips that could kill another person. I could lose control of my emotions When that happens, I don't want anything at my fingertips that would take another life.

Do you agree with the D.H. Lawrence









Doris Day's legacy lives on

By Behn Cervantes

I GREW UP WATCHING blonde and vibrant Doris Day's films. The squeakyclean, versatile performer starred in wholesome movies with the likes of Dennis Morgan and Gordon MacRae. She was also heard regularly on radio before the advent of

High school and colleague students danced even to her romantic ballads. It was the '40s song, "Day by Day," that made her America's singing sweetheart and Hollywood's favorite freckle-faced girl next door

Hollywood first nonced Day when she replaced Betty Hutton in "Romance on the High Seas." Thereafter, she appeared in a number of light musicals like "By the Light of the Silvery Moon" and "April in Pans" that cast her in average blonde roles.

More substantial

however, she soon appeared in "Young at Heart," "Calamity Jane" and "Pajama Game" alongside Tinseltown's heavyweights like Frank Sinatra and Howard Keel

Her films were box-office successes, and her records sold like pancakes. The whole world sang along with the lovable and wholesome actress—she was sitting on top of the world!

Little d.d the world know that Dodo, her nickname, was hospitalized when she was only 13 years old. At 16, she was already on the road singing in the different corners of the US continent. The young Doris von Kappe.hoff went through experiences normally meant for people far older and wiser.

Ordinary musician

It was no wonder she married at 17-not to an ordinary musician, but to a "psychopath"-as she described her first husband in her autobiography, "Doris Day: Her Own Story."

marital blunder. When she met Marty Melcher, her third husband, he seemed like her perfect match. However, upon his death, she realized that the seemingly ideal husband cum manager had "either mismanaged or embezzled" her life's savings worth \$20 million! -- That was big money in 19681

quotes in the movie—"The es-

sential American soul is hard.

Isn't that a wonderful quote?

Neil Jordan found that quote, I

believe that's true. I think that

in the fabric of our national

DNA is a culture of pioneers

who had to survive the most ar-

duous of lands in order to be-

that's hard and another part that port

come who they are

isolated, stoic and a killer"?

Jodie Foster avoids.

line that your character will do anything to protect our-

beautiful!

the future?

the future!

There's a part of us that is Nepales Report," on www.in-

childlike, but there's another part quirerbloggers net/nepalesre-



DAY. The box-office sweetheart of her time.

By the early '50s, she had become one of Hollywood's most popular female stars -and also one of its highest paid! She appeared in highly successful, sexy romantic romps like "Pıllow Talk," "Mıdnight Lace," and "That Touch of Mink" with debonair leading men like Rock Hudson, With her box-office clout, Rex Harrison and Cary Grant

She also dabbled in a dramore substantial musicals like matte role in "Love Me or Leave Me," where she costarred with James Cagney. Alfred Hitchcock cast her in "The Man Who Knew Too Much," where she sang the Academy Award-winning song, "Que Sera Sera."

Smart celebrity

Day became a name to reckon with at the box office, so she soon started producing her own films. Who knew that Tinse.town's box-office queen was flat broke? It was hard to believe the financial fate that befell the very successful star. How could such a smart celebrity have married such a cad?

After suffering a nervous breakdown, the determined actress went to work on television. Unbeknownst to her, her late husband had committed her to a show via a contract. She honored it and soon, she became one of the medium's biggest stars, "The Doris Day Show" ran for several successful seasons. Soon, she was At 22, she made another back on her financial feet. with fans rooting for her every

challenging step of the way. In 1974, she was awarded more than \$22 million in damages from the lawyer suspected of having connived with her late husband. Doris Day has since retired, but her legacy remains etched in the hearts and minds of her appreciative admirers.

selves. It's monstrous, but it's also

Would you like a little girl in

I don't think so. I don't think

E-mail rvnepales_5585@ya-

hoo.com and read his blog, "The

that's in the cards. I'm done.

But, I'd like a granddaughter in

SATURDAYSpecial

Jovovich keeps action-horror

By Noelani Torre

"RESIDENT EVIL: EXTINGtion," the third installment of a movie franchise that's based on a video game that's based on another movie, references so many things, including itself in its own previous incarnations, that it's practically an exploration of postmodern interreferentiality. And that's the last time cultural theory will be mentioned herebecause you simply can't take a movie like this seriously.

In any case, you wouldn't want to give credit where it isn't due. Perhaps Paul W.S. Anderson was doing some exploring when he wrote the script for this new sequel-or perhaps, he just couldn't be bothered to think of new ideas or a new plot. When you take into consideration the fact that he also wrote the scripts for the first two installments, the ruling doesn't exactly come down in his favor.

Despite Anderson's not so golden contribution to the filmmaking process, however, "Resident Evil: Extinction" is probably the most enjoyable in the series. That's not exactly saying much, since the first two films weren't what you'd call critical or box-office successes (both earned a not-too-impressive \$91 million combined).

Elements

Helmed by Australian director Russell Mulcahy, the movie has several elements working for it, the most important of which is the commanding presence of Milla Jovovich. Reprising her role as super undead slayer, Alice-and sometimes appearing resorting to cheap thrills. The

in the same red dress she wore at scenes are lean, and everythe start of the series-Jovovich plays her gun-toning, knifewielding, bad ass babe role with gusto. She's the main thing that Survivors keeps the movie going; without

Mulcahy, who got his start in the biz by directing music videos for artists like Duran Duran, Elton John and Queen, adds flash and style to the slicing and blasting of zombie flesh—obviously, he's not above

thing's fast-paced enough to keep tension at a high level.

The plot involves Alice her, it would probably fall flat on (Jovovich) protecting the lives of a band of survivors making their way through the Nevada desert. Among these survivors are characters from the previous films, Carlos Olivera (Oded Fehr) and L.J. (Mike Epps), as well as new ones like the group's leader, Claire (Alı Larter of "Heroes").

The Umbrella Corporation, tations whatsoever

meanwhile, is still looking for a cure for the zombie-making Tvirus they created which, by this time, has wiped out most of the world. Dr. Isaacs (Iain Glen) is the unlunged scientist conducting the experiments, who's desperately seeking Alice Her DNA may hold the key to the cure.

Referencing "Day of the Dead" and "Mad Max 2 The Road War rior" with occasionally effective but never unnovative results, "Resident Evil Extinction" is best approached with no expec-



(OVOVICH. Plays gun-toting, knife-wielding, bad-ass babe with gusto.

Parks offer free musical, theatrical treats

By Sharon Robas-Macawile

HOW DO YOU UNWIND WHEN your stress level reaches its peak? With the escalating prices of almost everything, even a weekly trip to the movie house has become quite prohibitive-unless, of course, you're content with watching DVDs or listening to your fave CDs at home.

During these hard times, is there a way to still, enjoy live musical and theatrical performances for free? Happily, the answer is yes. For many years now, "Paco Park Presents" and "Concert at the Park" have been giving music and theater buffs something to feed their artistic souls with.

The last time I watched a concert at Paco Park was in the '90s, and at Rizal Park in early 2000. At the time, performances in those parks were held every Friday and Sunday, respectively. To my pleasant surprise, I found out recently that those venues commue to observe the same schedule today.

Something new

Veering away from our usual weekend mall hideaway my hubby and I decided to try something new for a change. I "googled" the two parks and found a link to the website of the National Parks Development Committee, where a schedule of free events held in parks are posted. So, on a Friday night, we headed to Paco Park for



PACO PARK. Offers intimate musical shows.

our first treat together The night's featured per-

former was a tenor who sang a repertoire of standards and show tunes. With only a planist accompanying the singer, the performance was such a delight! The cool night breeze and intimate ambiance further added to the romantic setting

Although the audience was composed mostly of senior citizens who no doubt just wanted to take advantage of the free musical show, there were also young viewers who either savored the musica, treat, as well as student who chatted endlessly, despite the constant "shihhht" from annoyed listeners.

Brief distraction

Despite the brief distraction (thank goodness the noisy teens has been a favorite hangout of

left after a few minutes), the hour-long program ended with us feeling recharged and our weary souls refreshed.

That Sunday, we were at Rizal Park's open-air auditorium to watch a performance at "Concert at the Park." This time, it features a theatrical play, a first prize winner of the CCP's playwriting contest. Even before the show started, we al ready noticed an obvious contrast between the two parks "Paco Park Presents" offered an intimate setting, but the Rizal Park show was a bit loud in comparison

This was mainly because the shows. "Concert at the Park" venue was bigger and teemed with a diverse mix of people of all ages. The open-air auditorium

families on picnics, couples on dates, beggars taking naps and street kids loitering around the place. Of course, there were also some serious theater lovers who were quietly mingling with the people around, and they were just as excited as we

When the play finally started, the crowd alternately cheered and giggled at the play's funny and engaging scenes. Despite the threat of rain, the audience stayed on and left the auditonum satisfied

Audience reaction

Audience reaction during outdoor performances can be encouraging and disappointing at the same time. There were those who truly knew how to appreciare a good show, but there were a few who brashly howled at the performers just for kicks. Another minus point; smokers were everywhere! A cigarette vendor (a kid) was even plying her trade along the aisles-while the play was going on.

In the end, however, these free performances are a welcome treat. We encourage those looking for alternative pastimes to take advantage of these

On our way home, we realized how much we had saved from our cheap but excuting forays at the parks -- so, they definitely won't be our last!

Toti Fuentes back for homecoming show

Guests on "Oprah". Oct. 7 at 4 at 7 p.m., "American Dreamz." 8 p.m., Magic Johnson, Oct. 14, Howie Mandel, Oct. 28, Chris Rock and Pantasia, For details, visit www.hallmarkchannel.tv.

'Taluktok'

Gantimpala Theater Foundation's Pearl Theater Festival ends with Leoncio Deriada's "Taluktok" at 7 p.m. tomorrow at the Rizal Park Auditorium. Tony Espejo directs.

'Parental Control'

At 6 p.m. M.F on the ETC. channel, "Parental Control" shows what happens when parents are allowed to pick their kids' dates, so that the boyfriends or girlfriends they hate can be replaced with "better" prospects.

Movies on TV

On HBO on Oct. 1 at 8.30 a.m., "Born on the Fourth of July." Oct. 2 at 1 p.m., "Gorillas in the Mist." Oct. 3 at 2 p.m., "Greystoke: The Legend of Tarzan, Lord of the Apes." Oct

Oct. 5 at 3 p.m., "In Country."

On Cinemax, Oct. 1 at 9 p.m., "Casino." Oct. 2 at 7 a.m., "G I. Blues." Oct. 3 at 5 p.m., "Trading Places." Oct. 4 at 7 a.m., "Bonnie and Clyde" Oct. 5 at 7 a m., "East of Eden."

Grand Prize winner

Hana Richelle Tan, 11 years old, is the grand prize winner of Nickelodeon's "share-sational" Canister Design Contest, the nit's theme of sharing is clearly depicted in Hana's design—a birds'-eye view of kids with hands interlocked, urging each other to perform acts of kind-

Hana's winning design will be the cover of 10,000 canisters which will be distributed to raise funds to benefit KFC-Batang Bayani Village, a GK community in Pasig. Log on to www.nicksplat.com/bighelp.

'Art 2 Art'

Writer-chrector Floy Quintos

gene Domingo, Pokwang and Candy Pangilinan—as four friends who try their luck as domestic helpers in Hong Kong Search for 'The Great

"HAUNTING SARAH." Thrilling

treat on Hallmark. recently guested on Lisa Macura's radio program, "Art 2 Art," telecast 3 p.m. Sundays on dzRH. The show brings audience personalines in the realm of art and culture to a nationwide audience.

'Apat Dapat'

Powerhouse comedy team, director Wenn Deramas and writer Mel del Rosario's latest fun flick is "Apat Dapat, Dapat Apat," starring four zany come diennes - Rufa Mae Quinto, Eu-

Pretender' Got the talent to impersonate your favorite singers, famous personalities or dance groups? Join Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall's "The Great Pretender" talent and impersonation contest, which

boasts of P100,000 worth of cash prizes and gift certificates. Weekly elimination rounds start on Nov. 7 and grand finals are on Dec 19 Call 681-5401 loc.

'Search for Warmth'

The Zelle band's debut album. "Search for Warmth," is a heartwarming collection of songs of love, passion and inspiration, with "Sabihin" as carrier single.

'Simply Irresistible'

Mark Bautista's second major concert, "Samply Irresistible," wall-

be presented at Aliw Theater on Oct. 13. His guests include Sarah Geronimo, Rachelle Ann Go, Rufa Mae Quinto and Sitti, Call 687-6191 loc. 620.

'70s hits

Barry Manilow's new album, "The Greatest Songs of the '70s," celebrates the hit songs of the decade that launched his career. Manilow's tributes start with an homage to Barbra Streisand's "The Way We Were," Frankie Valii's "My Eyes Adore You," the Bee Gees' "How Can You Mend a Broken Heart?" and Christopher Cross' "Sailing." The 18-track CD also includes a section called Acoustic Manhow.

Cartoon Network

At recent auditions at SM Mall of Asia Cartdon Network judges selected three finalists per category for its Awards of Excellence 2007. They will be competing for the top spot at the awards ceremony on Nov. 29 Log on to www.carroonnetwork.com.ph

'Pelikula' at Greenbelt 3

From Oct. 1-14, Instituto Cervantes de Manila screens Pelíkula, its festival of outstanding movies from Asian and Latin America at Greenbelt 3's Cinema On Oct. 8, the film on view is "Los Ulumos de Fil.pinos, 1898," on the siege of Baler, Quezon. Other titles include "7 Virgines," "La Vida Secreta de las Palabras," "De Profundis," "Utopia," "El Proximo Onente" and "Tu Vida en '65." Call 526-1482 to 85

Shroud of Turin exhibit

Warren Hewellyn Ormsby-Green, specialized armorer for "The Lord of the Rings," has crafted Roman artifacts for the Philippine exhibition of The Mystery of the Shroud of Turin, a 45-minute lights and sound show that features a replica of the Shourd of Turin. The exhibit runs until Dec. 9 at SM Mall of Asia. Call 895-2966, log on to www.shroudexhibits.ph entail info@shroudexhibits.ph

SATURDAYSpecial

Potent chemistry boosts uneven teenage romance

By Rito P. Asilo

"I've Fallen for You"

D: Lino S. Cayetano

IN LINO CAYETANO'S FEATURE film debut as director, he puts Gerald Anderson and Kirn Chius potent chemistry to good use. When Alex Gabrie, Reyes (Chiu) crosses paths with Alex Tamano Reyes (Anderson), attraction turns to resentment when the pretty but poor teenage girl learns that it was her affluent namesake who passed the UPCAT.

In desperate need of money for her college tuition, she agrees to team up with the handsome stranger in a tandem cycling competition, with her eye on the P50,000 prize-and her heart on his

But, things are never smooth sailing in fairytale land. The happy duo soon learns that her dad, Jonathan (Albert Martinez), and aus more, Tessa (Chin Chin Gutterrez), share a colorful but painfu past—that soon threatens to break them apart! Is their love just as doomed as their parents?

Cayerano's polished filmmak-

'Let them view

telling, so it has to pick up its pace if

it intends to sustain its initial mo-

of fantasy productions on local

TV, further aberted by these two

new shows, isn't healthy view-

It encourages them to remain

passive, to escape into fantasy

worlds, to refuse to confront real

ing fare for TV fans.

Having said all that, we must further note that the current glut

"Lastikman" is prone to slow story- life and issues. Sure, many peo-

ing debut shows the hard work he and his production team put into it-from the careful handling of shots and organically S: Gerald Anderson, Kim Chiu blocked sequences to ensply edited and well-lit scenes.

> Moreover, Eli Balce's inspired photography and Malou Dugtong de Guzman's glossy production design further help set the mood for love and drama. The movie's well-chosen locations provide the appropriately dreamy backdrop it needs to seal its theme of first love.

> The over-all product, however, is uneven: The movie's first 30 minutes grind slowly (and awkwardly) until the production finally finds its confident stride halfway through. Soon, the light romantic poor grd-meets-rich boy tale turns into an eventfully dramatic love story that dispenses lessons on taking risks and chasing after second chances.

There's no doubt Chiu and Anderson possess a potent chemistry that works well on the big screen. The pretty Chinese-Filipino teenager, however, has to find a proper placement for her consistently cracking speaking voice-which distracts when

ple watch TV to switch off rather

than to turn on, but if this be-

comes a habit, it can't be good for

In the past, rulers bent on

subduing the populace would

opt for "bread and circuses," or

would smugly intone, "Let them

day equivalent isn't "Let them

view TV fantasy series!"

Let's hope that their present-

the national life and psyche.

eat cake!"

CHIU AND ANDERSON. Their onscreen tandem is a winner.

she's required to deliver emotionally-charged lines in sensitive scenes. In fact, she's at her best in silent moments.

Anderson, on the other hand, is a confident performer who cuts a dashing figure and possesses a disamning presence on

the silver screen.

The young Fil-Am is a natu ral: He should be given challenging dramatic roles in more substantial projects that he can sink his thespic teeth into-and we're not talking about his future at noodle dancing!

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Resident Evil 3

No Reservations

3 I've Fallen For You I Now Pronounce You

Chuck And Larry

Baptismal weddings...

From page FI

beheve, should not go beyond being vigilant!

(Baliktad yata...)

Host: How long did it take you to build up your body? Guest. About one year, It was very difficult!

Host: But, it was successful! Ang dami mo nang laman get? sa loob ngayon) (Ay, lamang loob!)

Host: You know, I like talk-

ing to you

Guest: Thank you. Host: Your jokes are fun-

speak?)

ny! You're so magaan and al-(Is that the new double

Host: Why don't you plug your forthcoming shows in Europe?

Guest: Oh, yes, please watch out for us, we'll be there next month with ally achievement! (names of other stars)

Host: What about Ireland? Guest: Yes, we'll also be Guest: We, the people, I performing there, in Dublin.

Host: Go ahead, talk to them, pinapanood tayo ngayon ng lahat ng tao sa Dublin, Ireland)

(Promise, ha?)

Host: How do you screen prospective employees from the many applications you

Guest: We look into not just the mental and physical-patt yung kanyang psychologically situation

(Ah, so...)

Host: How old were you when your father died?

Guest: Oh, my father, patay na, 3-4 years old pa lang (No comment!)

Host: Are you proud of your victory?

Guest: Well. proud -but, humbly speaking, I admit it's in a thing a re-(Ano daw?)

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8.20 10:30

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1:30,3:40,5 50

8:00.10:10

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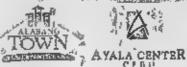
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SATURDAYSpecial

'Let them view TV fantasy series'

By Nestor U. Torre

ON MONDAY, SEPT. 24, TWO fantasy series started telecasting on local TV screens: ABS-CBN 2 fielded "Lastikman," while GMA-7 launched "Zaido." Which new series made a better impression on its opening telecast? Let's see how some relevant factors play themselves out:

"Lastikman" has good star value in the person of title role player, Vhong Navarro. And its opening sequence last Sept. 24 was visually impressive, with a gigantic waterspout destroying everything in its path, and Lastikman vanquishing an all-powerful villain.

Leader

After that exciting start, however, the show slowed down when it recalled how Lastikman was born on another planet, of a human mother (Dawn Zulueta) and a leader (Tonton Gunerrez) of that other civilization in outer space.

The back story was told in too detailed a fashion, so this viewer's attention wandered. We noted, though, that the series' visual effects were otherwise quite on the up-and-up.

For its part, "Zaido" told the

"ZAIDO" AND "LASTIKMAN." Slug it out for top viewership.

tic Force threatened by the onpillaging other worlds.

This prompted the Force to form a new corps of space police made up of stalwart, young fighters led by the character played by Dennis Trillo.

To start its storytelling on a could rise up to that level, even

story of an otherworldly Galac- high note, the new series made use of shots of planets in deep slaught of an evil planet bent on space, state-of-the-art spaceships, and futuristic sets.

The effect was fine, except it feit a little "borrowed" from such iconic reference points as see that our visual scenarists hand, we must again note that

if not mainly on their own creative steam.

The turn-off here was the inconsistency between the production's glossy sci-fi effects and some warriors still resorting to dated martial arts stances and swordfights. You would think that advanced civilizations capable of teleportation would have developed the art of warfare to a similarly more high-tech level!

Decoration

Some aspects of the production design were also distracting, like Diana Zubiri's sporting a necklace-like decoration that was arranged like a sort of mask her-face! "facelace" looked exotic but ungainly, and detracted from the actress' appeal, instead of enhancing it. But, that's a mere de-

The more important question is, which of the two new series made the better impression on its first telecast? We have to go with "Lastikman," since "Zaido" and its "space patrol" concept felt a bit dat-"Star Wars." Still, it was good to ed and borrowed. On the other

Sassy hybrid of jazz and blues in 'Ur Luv Thang'

By Rito P. Asilo

WITH FINGER-SNAPPING beats and a sassy vocal arrangement, Bitum Escalante opens her latest CD, "Ur Luv Thang," with the groovesome track, "Let Go." The lush music reverberates with a sexy and unconventional tempo that reminds listeners that Bituin's latest album is not one of your run-of-the-mill, commercial releases. Ironically, this OPM compilation doesn't

sound Pinoy at all! In a season of slim pickings from the local music industry, Bitum's independently-produced album, "Ur Luv Thang," is nothing short of a treat: The 12-song compilation is coated with a musically succulent hybrid of blues and jazzy tunes, all written by Dan Gil-it's no wonder why some cuts follow through with similar groove patterns and vocal requirements. Even more pleasantly surprising, there are no revivals here, as is customary with most local releases.

Musical ennui

In her previous offering, the singer-stage actress dished out a memorably frolicsome song, "The Only Two People in the World." Her independentlyproduced collection boasts of even more lusciously delivered numbers an aural respite from the local recording industry's current musical ennui

In "Each Time We Say Goodbye," for instance, Bitum delivers a lovely R&B duet with Artstrong. In the lone Tagalog track, "Kung Wala Ka," about a troubled relationship, she dispenses an earnest interpretation full of soul and pathos.

Yes, the somber tune's lyncs border on "jukebox" sentimentality ("Kung wala ka, buhay ko'y walang saysay. Di ako masasanay. Mabuti pang mamatay."), but with Bituar's full voiced rendition (and Alvin Cornista's moody sax), propriate to expect more.



ESCALANTE. In her full-voiced renditions, schmaltz takes on a different

schmaltz takes on a different

meaning An upbeat rhythm boosts "What You Do," a cut remaniscent of the tunes popularized by Swing Out Sisters in the '80s. Our top pick, "Last Tango in Manila," fuses Latin sound with LLJ's foot-stomping rap. When Bitain launches into her infectrously playful taunt ("I know you're just putting on a show. You got something up you're sleeve. "), you know she's having fun-and so will you!

Feisty

Take the vocally and melodically fascinating "There's No Single Thing." The feisty number has a funny albeit simplistic narrative. "I was 8 and you were 9. We'd run around till dinnertime. Then, my dad would drag me back home-kickin' and screamin !"

A number of tracks, however, vacillate with ind stinct melodic patterns ("Hurts So Bad," "Inconsiderate") that don't take flight. Bittan would have been served well by a variety of musical styles (and songwriters) that could have showcased her range and versatility.

If a singer's vocal instrument has the ability to pack as much wallop as Bituin's, it's only ap-

Toti Fuentes back for homecoming show

MORE THAN A YEAR away fighting his recurring cancer, international musician Toti Fuentes is back in town, raring to perform once again

MONTAGE er

Togethwith another come-

backing artist, Anna Fegi, Toti will perform in "Perfect Pair," a show presented by Merk's Bar Bistro on Oct. 27, Nov. 8, 10 and 15, with Doc's Candles as sponsor. Call 757-4741 or 531-5707

Pomeranz on SuperStar Virgo

On Oct. 28, Star Cruses features acclaimed singer-songwriter David Pomeranz onboard its SuperStar Virgo's The Lido. The performance is a first for Pomeranz, whose hits include "Got to Believe" in Magic," "King and Queen of Hearts" and "Born for You."

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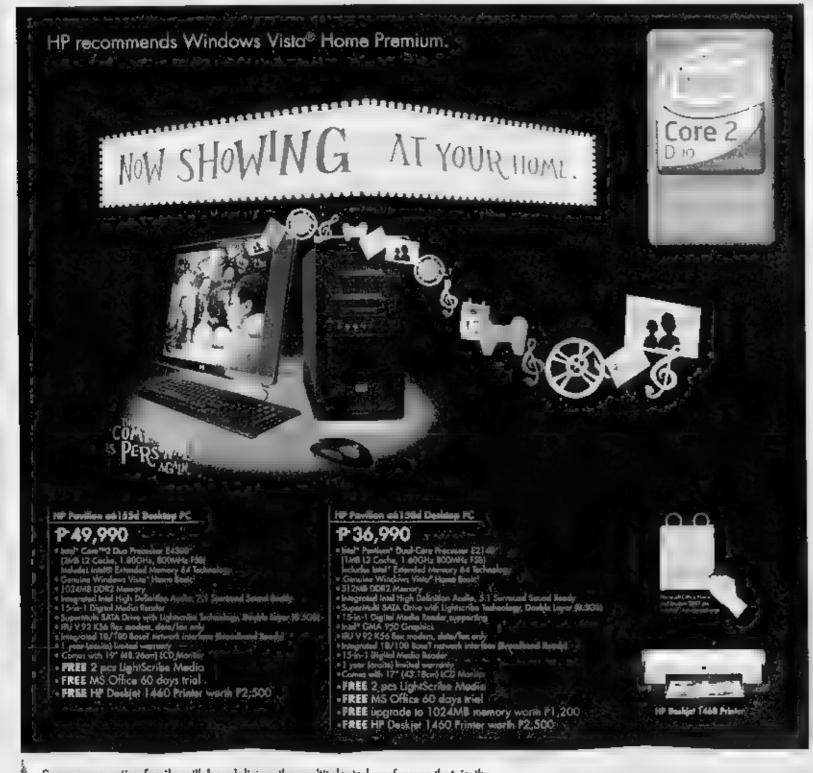
Solar Sports, Starmall Edsa and Metropolis Star Alabang brung boxing fans the live coverage via sate,life at 8 a.m. on Oct. 7 Cail 718-1886, 872-5249 or 842-2513.

Thrillers on Hallmark

Thursday Thriller Nights on the Hallmark Channel fields these terrifying tales. Oct. 4 at 10 p.m., "Deadly Web," about a stalker on the Internet. Oct. 11, "Haunting Sarah," on a woman's fear that her dead son is being reborn when her twin discovers that she's pregnant.

Oct. 18, 'A Nightmare Comes True," about how a young woman's dreams help her unveil the possible murder of her mother. Oct. 25, "Murder Without Con-viction," on a former nun's exoneration of twin brothers who, 30 years ago, were accused of the brutal murder of their mother.

Also on Hallmark: Oct. 1 and 2 at 11 p.m., "Trudeau," which tells the turbulent story of Canadian Prime Minister Pierre Elhot Trudeau.

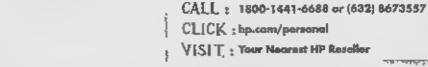


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Republic of the Philippines
SOCIAL SECURITY COMMISSION Makati City

JOSEFINA T. JARDIN, Petitioner.

SSC CASE NO. 4-17792-07

versus -

PERLA R. SAN LORENZO,

Respondent, SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM, Intervenor.

SUMMONS

TO: PERLA R. SAN LORENZO

You are hereby required to file within lifteen (15) days from the date of publication of this Summons with the Office of the Clerk of the Commission. 12th Floor, SSS Makati Building, 6782 Ayala Avenue corner Rufino Street. Maketi City, your Answer to the Petition filed by JOSEFINA T. JARDIN on her claim for benefit accruing from the death of RENATO E. JARDIN.

You are further required to serve a copy of your enswer to the petition. al patitioner's address at 2 Martinez Bultid, Brgy, Martinez del '96 Pateros. Metro Manila and upon the SSS thru Atty, NEIL F. HERNAEZ of Makati City Branch Office, # 355 ECC Bidg., Sen. Gil Puyal Ave., Makati City.

If you fail to answer within the time prescribed above, the Hearing Commissioner may upon motion of the petitioner or motu-proprio, declare you in default and shall forthwith proceed to receive the petitioner's evidence ex-parte and thereafter recommend to the Commission either the granting or denial of the petition as the evidence may warrant.

SO ORDERED

Makali City, Philippines, August 30, 2007.

(PDI - September 29, 2007)

SOCIAL SECURITY COMMISSION

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Boy Scouts of the Philippines and Sime Darby Pilipinas, Inc. are looking for a local and/or international property consultant/ broker who can assist them in marketing its property located at Ayala Avenue extension corner Malugay St., Makati City.

Interested group may submit their proposal not later than October 12, 2007 to the Secretary General of the Boy Scouts of the Philippines with office at:

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Bids and Awards Committee

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

- 1. The City Government of Maasin through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) invites all interested suppliers, dealers, distributors and contractors to apply for eligibility and to submit bids for the supply, delivery and installation of licensed system application software and hardware, database construction and training and technical support with an Approved Budget of the Contract of six million two hundred fifty thousand pesos, Philippine currency (PhP6,250,000.00).
- 2. The Bids and Awards Committee will hold a Pre-bid Conference on Thursday, October 4, 2007 at ten o'clock in the morning at the City Conference Room, City Hail,
- 3. Interested bidders may obtain a complete set of bidding documents from October 4 to 15, 2007 upon payment of a non-refundable fee of 0.1% of the Approved Budget of the Contract to the City Treasury Services, Maasin City.
- 4. Deadline for the submission of applications for eligibility to bid and bid proposals shall be on Tuesday, October 16, 2007 at ten o'clock in the morning at the City Conference Room, City Hall, Maasin City. Immediately after the deadline, applications for eligibility and bid proposals will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives.
- 5. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use the non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted. All particulars relative to the Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Pre-Bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of RA No. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations.
- 6. The City Government of Maasin assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate and indemnify bidders for any expense incurred in the preparation of application for eligibility and to bid. The Bids and Awards Committee of the City of Maasin reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any defects or formality therein and to accept bids considered complying and most advantageous to the government.
- For more information, please contact the BAC Secretariat at telephone numbers 570-8608 or 570-8824.

(Sgd.) CRISPIN M. ARONG, JR. Chairman

(PCR - September 29, 2007)

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Cagayan de Oro City Interested perios may register and secure Sidding Guidelines upon payment of a non-redundable fee of P500.00 from October 1-5, 2007 etc.

The Secretaria; Blds, Auction and Awards Committee Rameyan Ruelly Corporation on Aktional Development Company 6° Finar NDC Building, 116 Torderilles 8t., Saicedo Village, Markall City Tel. Nos. (632) 848-1336, 840-4438 toc. 233 & 365

A pre-bid conference shall be field on October 23, 2007 at 9:30 AM at the Audio Visual Roors Alberto S. Barretto Hall, NDC Budding. Blds shall be accompanied by 10% bid bond and substitud between 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM of October 26, 2007 fabeled and addressed as follows:

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Bids, Auction and Awards Committee
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oto National Development Company
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Salcedo Village, Makati City
CODE: Location of Property

The opening of bids is scheduled on October 29, 2007 at 2 01 PM at the Audio Visual Foom, Alberto B Berretto Hall, NOC Building, in the presence of all bidoes(s) and/or their authorized representative(s). KRC reserves the right to reject say and all bids or to waive any of the formalisies required, or scrapt only such bids which are deemed adventageous to KRC.

(POI-Supt. 28, 29 & 30, 2007)

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The opening of seared bids, prepared in the prescribed forms and accompanied by a 10% bid band, is acheduled on 12 October 2007 at 2:30 PM at the NEC Alberto Barretio Hall, NEC Building in the presence of all bidder(s) and/or their authorized representative(s). Bids submitted after 2:00 PM

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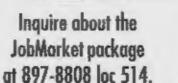
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National Power Corporation

September 24, 2007

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID SUPPLY, DELIVERY, RISTALLATION AND COMMISSIONING OF THE FOLLOWING;

SCHEDULE 1 - 3 x 650 kW DESEL GENSETS FOR TABLAS Dissel Power Plant and SCHEDULE 2 - 2 x 650 kW DISSEL GENSETS FOR ROMBLON Dissel Power Plant

The National Power Corporation (NPC) invites all interested Bidders to apply for Signify and to Bid for the Supply, Delivery, Installation and Committationing of (a) Schedula 1 - 3 x 655 kW Dissel Generating Sats for Tables DPP; and (b.) Schedula 2 - 2 x 655 kW Dissel Generating Sats for Rombton DPP. The source of funds for the Lease Contract to be Bid shall come from the Corporate Budget of NPC.

The works to be completed by the successful bidder shall consist of, but not limited to the design enerudacture, furnishing/supply including its delivery, installiation and commissioning of 3 x 650 kW gensets for Tables DPP and 2x 650 kW gensets for Rombion DPP APC is responsible in the supply and installedon of generator's respective power cables, control cables, from control panels, generator protector squepment, returns and synchronization equipment bath at Tetritis DPP and Romston CPP. The Supplies shall supervise the instrug and commissioning of the desail eigen-generator sets and its auxiliaries. Included in the supply for the lost of 5 x 950 MM generats are 2 sets of processor/portable personal computer for generats control sesting and 2 sets of standard special mechanical tools as provided by the neutralisatives.

Sisting will be conducted that open compassive bidding procedure as specified in the IRR of RA 9184. Bidders most have complised a senior contests with a value of at least 50% of the ABC within the lest fifteen (15) years, and must be other numerous stightly requirements stated in the Englosty-Reiding Cocoments. Bets received in excess of the ASC small be automatically rejected at the Bio Opening. Foreign budder shall submit a confession from the foreign budder shall submit a confession from the first provinger to congress of the Philippets. The complete set of tender documents are available for issuance at the Bids and Contracts Seniors Department (SCSD), Ground Proor, NPC Building, Agham Road corner Quezon Averue Dárdan, Queenn City 1104 with tabelas no. (632) 922-1622 upon presentation of Lutter of Intent.

The bidding requirements and schedule of activities are as follows. Contract Number - Luz P07Z123Sau APPROVED BUDGET FOR THE CONTRACT

Schedule 1 = P22,675,000,00 Schedule 2 = P14,725,000.00 Issuance of Bidding Docs | October 1, 2007 at the BCSD Office, NPC Head Office Fire Real Commissions October 15, 2007, 10:30 A.M. at Monones Room, NPC Building, Diliman, Quezon City October 29, 2007, 10:30 A.M. at Moriones Room, NPC Building, Disman, Quezon City Subareston/Opening of Bids Coreraci Duration One Hundred Eighty (180) calendar days P 10,000.00mchedule (Hon-refundable) Cost of Eligibility

Evaluation of alignity, technical and price proposals will be based on non-decretionary "passified" unexts prescribed in this briding documents. Pursuand to GPPB Resolution No. 22-2085, prespective bidders should register with PhiliGEPS and secure the corresponding Certificate of Registration. NPC reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to nutriy the bidding process and reject all bids at any trose poor to cominant amond, without thereby incurring any bahaity to the effected bidder or bidders. (Sgd.) JUAN CARLOS J. GUADARRAMA

Vice President and Champan Bids and Awards Committee

[PDI - September 29, 2007]

FOR RENT WAREHOUSE

#5 Kalentiaw St. cor. J.P. Rizel cor. 20th Ave., Cubeo, Q.C. LA-869 sq.m., FA 1,500 sq.m.

Pis. cell Amy or Philip Tel. No. 9839551 to 58 CP#0917-8272641 2894-0282 · 889-7956 CP80917-R11545A

MIN-MIN-SELL NAMES, NP COTTER, NY PARES, DALLAND SMISS WATCHES SALU & DINHOND SPECIALITY

sec Indo arias

IMMEDIATE HIRING REAL ESTATE CONSULTANT

Male. 20-26 years old, st least 57 in height College graduate

Good communication with Appressive, dynamic and

Can steat vol top prof. people Basic 10K plus commission/

frequency and travel abroad... Please contect (9880) 5238124









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REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES COMMISSION ON AUDIT Commonwealth Avenue, Quezon City

FINANCIAL REPORTS OF MUNICIPALITIES REGION 3 AND REGION 4 Fiscal Year 2006 (in thousand pesas)

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REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES COMMISSION ON AUDIT Commanwealth Avenue, Quezon City

FINANCIAL REPORTS OF MUNICIPALITIES REGIONS 5, 6 AND 7 Fiscal Year 2006 (in thousand pesos)

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Local Generoriment Unita REGION 6 Altany Bussessy Camaring Camari	Assertion	Total		Level thewarpment Unda Banoto 4 Baroter Neuron 2 Baroter Neuron 2 Baroter Neuron 3 Baroter Neuron 3 Baroter Neuron 4 Baroter Neuron 3 Baroter Neuron 3 Baroter Neuron 4 Baroter Neuron 3 Carinda 2 Carinda 2 Carinda 3 Carinda 3 Carinda 4 Carinda 4 Carinda 4 Carinda 5 Lagenes 4 San Enrique 4 San Enrique 5 Tuburtgor 4 San Enrique 1 Cantalame 3 San Barotes 3 Tuburtgor 4 Cantalame 3 Macada 4 San Enrique 1 Cantalame 3 Macada 4 San Enrique 1 Cantalame 3 Macada 4 Caringer 4 Caringer 4 Caringer 4 Caringer 5 Caringer 5 Caringer 7 Tuburtgor 5 Caringer 6 Alore 4 Andre Andre 5 Andre 7 San	134,578 12,993 121,5 105,748 10,998 94,7 4,337,434 1,119,796 32,217,6 88,199 13,717 74,4 40,864 10,758 30,1 32,700 8,848 26,8 191,175 71,707 119,4 115,591 17,851 97,9 70,303 14,742 55,5 167,351 43,234 124,3 126,250 14,775 111,4 116,749 24,204 92,3 277,512 123,489 164,1 116,749 24,204 92,3 31,880 8,880 25,0 173,120 55,502 117,6 93,774 12,561 79,1 11,312 59,7 11,058 11,312 59,7 11,058 11,312 59,7 11,058 11,312 19,148 63,3 188,503 43,301 145,6 188,503 43,301 145,6 188,503 43,301 145,6 188,503 43,301 145,6 188,503 43,301 145,6 188,503 43,301 121,8 188,503 43,301 121,8 188,503 43,301 121,8 188,503 43,301 121,8 188,503 43,301 121,8 188,503 43,301 121,8 188,503 43,301 121,8 188,503 43,301 121,8 188,503 43,301 121,8 188,503 15,124 44,1 237,592 51,372 166,3 127,895 12,397 96,5 180,105 13,519 12,08 180,105 5,530 30,3 175,48 13,223 29,3 185,667 983,371 123,4 185,367 12,172 10,881 26,3 185,367 12,172 10,881 26,3 185,360 16,124 44,3 186,667 16,768 12,1,3 186,667 16,768 12,1,3 186,667 16,768 12,1,3 186,667 16,768 12,1,3 186,667 16,918 146,1 183,397 27,756 96,1 183,397 27,756 96,1 183,397 27,756 96,1 183,397 27,756 96,1 183,397 27,756 96,1 183,397 27,756 96,1 183,397 27,756 96,1 183,397 27,756 96,1 183,397 27,756 96,1 183,397 27,756 96,1 183,397 27,756 96,1 183,397 27,756 96,1 183,397 27,756 96,1 183,397 27,756 96,1 183,397 27,756 96,3 183,397 27,756 96,3 183,397 27,756 96,3 183,397 27,756 96,3 183,397 27,756 96,3 183,397 27,756 96,3 183,397 27,756 96,3 183,397 27,756 96,3 183,397 27,756 96,3 183,397 27,756 96,3 183,397 27,756 96,3 183,397 27,756 96,3 183,397 27,756 96,3 183,397 27,756 96,3 183,39		Net Part Net Part Net Part Par
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Message of Thanks

We, the bereaved family of the late REV. MSGR. GORGONIO L. ENCARNACION,

wish to express our heartfelt gratitude and sincerest appreciation to His Eminence Gaudencio B. Cardinal Rosales, D.D., the auxiliary bishops and clergy of the Archdiocese of Manila, RCAM family, Cardinal Sin

Welcome Home family, those who offered Masses and prayers, sent flowers and messages of sympathy and also those who in countless ways condoled and comforted us in our time of bereavement.

SANDBLASTED CRANTTE



PRIT ENTERPRISES INC.

1120 J.P. RIZAL ST., GUADALUPE VIEJO, MAKATI CITY TEL #895-8401*896-0292*890-3407*895-9775 FAX# (632) 890-3408 EMAIL: prk@skytnet.net



DOLE-REGION IV DOLE-NCR National Food Authority-RO6-2008-04 National Food Authority-RO6-2008-03

Death Notice

Amella Mistades Dumagat

Died Sept. 26, 2007 at the age of 65.

Her body lies in state at her residence 1958 J. Patino St., Sta. Ana, Manila.

Interment is on Oct. 2, 2 p.m. at Manila South Cemetery,

A25

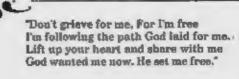
I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies; and whoever believes in Me will never die." John 11:25-26

Our Dearly Beloved Marcelo D. Salazar

Now rests in the infinite warmth and embrace of our Lord. He joined our Creator on the 26th of September 2007 at the age of 68.

His wife, Leticia T. Salazar (†) and children Marilyn (†), Marlet, Mark, Marvie, Mariel and grandson Mark Vincent and all relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

Interment will be on Tuesday, October 2, 2007, 1 p.m. at the Alfonso Municipal Cemetery, Alfonso, Cavite.



Our Dearly Beloved

Col. JUANITO G. ODEJAR

Now rests in the infinite warmth and embrace of our Lord. He joined our Creator on the 27th of September 2007 at the age of 79.

His loving wife, Bening E. Odejar and children Marie and Lucille. all relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Heaven's Garden Memorial Chapel, National Highway, Brgy. Anos, Los Baños, Laguna.

Interment will be on Sunday, September 30, 2007, 11:00 a.m. at the Heaven's Garden Memorial Park, National Highway, Brgy, Anos, Los Baños, Laguna.



INQUIRER OBITUARIES

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS: O Copy of Death Certificate O Any identification document (LD.) WE ACCEPT CREDIT CARDS and bank-to-bank payments. "...absent from the body to be present with the Lord."

2 Certorblans 5:8

CLASSIFIEDS



TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

TESDA's JANITORIAL and SECURITY SERVICES CY 2008

50 Janitors and 59 Security Personnel Requirements of TESDA Central Office and TESDA-NCTESD, Marikina Campus

The Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) through the National Government Budget Intends to apply the amount of the following for payment of contract:

> Janitorial Service - P 8,081,430.00 Security Services - P12,744,000.00

being the Approved Sudget for the Contract (ABC). Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

TESDA now invites seated Bids from aligible Bidders for the Janiforkal and Security requirements of TESDA. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents. invitation to Bidders (ITB).

Bidding will be conducted through public bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act No. 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act, and is restricted to organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, as specified in Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the aligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, (TB. The bidder with the lowest calculated bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine his responsiveness to the technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) as determined during the post-qualification procedure.

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY DIVISION, 3rd Fir. TESDA Administration Building and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

A complete set of Skidding Documents may be purchased by interested Skidders from the address below and upon payment of a nonrelundable fee in the amount of Eight Thousand Pesos Only (P8,000.00) for the Janitorial Services and Ten Thousand Pesos Only (P10,000.00) for the Security Services. The method of payment will be in the form of cash. The Blocking Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

TESDA will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on October 16, 2007, 10:00 A.M. for Janitorial Services and 2:00 P.M. for Security Services at OTI Conference Room, Learning Center, Ground Floor, TESDA Administration Building.

Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before 10:00 A.M. for Janitorial and 2:00 P.M. for Security on October 31, 2007. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form of:

 Cash, cartified check, cashier's check equivalent to 1% of the total bid price; or Bank guarantee equivalent to 1½% of the total bid price.

Late Bids shall not be accepted.

Bid opening shall be held on October 31, 2007, 10:30 A.M. for Janitorial and 2:30 P.M. for Security at OTI Conference Room, Learning Center, Ground Floor, TESDA Administration Building. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the addre

TESDA reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any flability to the affected Bidder or Bidders

TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY MR. T.S. SANICO Chairperson, BAC

TESDA Complex, TESDA Administration Building East Service Road, South Luzon Expressway Taguig City, Philippines Tel. No.: 817-40-78 to 80 local 314 & 315

TeleFax No.: 893-8296 E-mail: psd_oces@tesda.gov.ph Website: www.tasda.gov.ph

(PDI-Sept. 29, 2007)

(Sgd.) T.S. SAMICO Chairperson, BAC



Republika ng Pilipinas Republic of the Philippines Ragawaran ng Canggulang Pambausa Department of National Defense

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

(DND-Proper Procurement of Goods)

The Department of National Delense, through the DND-Proper Bids and Awards Committee, Invites suppliers/ manufacturers/distributors/contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following projects: Project A. Stidding of Various Equipments

Name of Project	Description	for Contract (ABC)									
IT and Office Equipments	Supply and Delivery of Assorted Equipments for use of PDR Offic	Supply and Delivery of Assorted IT and Office Equipments for use of PDR Offices									
2. Vehicles and Motorcycles	Supply and Delivery of Vehicles for use of PDR Offices	Supply and Delivery of Vahiotes and Motorcycle									
	TOTAL		2,844,000.00								
Project B. Re-Bidding of Supp	pliest										
Name of Project	Description	Approved Budget for Contract (ABC)									
1. Other Supplies	Supply and Dalivery of Assorted	Php3.719.625.00									
	TOTAL	Php3,719,525.00									
The schedule of activities are as follows:											
ACTIVITIES	VENUE	DATE	TIME								
Issuance of Bid Documents	DND Proper BAC Secretariat, OASIL. Rm 203, 2nd Floor DND Bidg., Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City	October 01-23,	2007 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM								
Pre-Bld Conference	OASPER Old Conference Room. Basement, DND Bldg.	October 12, 200	7 9:30 AM								
Deadline for Submission / Opening of Bids	OASPER Old Conference Room, Basement, DND Bidg.	7 9:00 AM									
Bid Evaluation	These shall be in accordance w	ith the prescribe	ed pariods allowed in the								
Post-Qualification	Implementing Rules and Regula	implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR)-A of R.A. 9184 dated									
Issuance of Notice of Award	10 January 2003.										

Bid Occuments will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of non-refundable assount as indicated below to the ONO-Proper BAC Secretarsal, Procurement Branch, Office of Administrative Services, Carep General Emilio Aguntatio, Quezon City, Tel

Hame of Project	Cost of Blidding Documents					
of I. Date of the base Street						
1. IT and Office Equipments	Php 1,600.00					
2 Vehicles and Motorcycles	1,200.00					
Project B. Re-Bidding of Supplies						
1 Other Supplies	3,700.00					

- The eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Protonnery Examination of Buts shall use non-decentionary "personal" criteria. Postqualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted. At particulars relative to Eighbliry Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Dustification and Avest of Conferes shall be governed by the paramet provisions of R.A. 9184 and its implementing Rules and Regulations Part-A (IRR-A).
- All prospective biddiers are encouraged to apply for a continuity of eligibility not later them two (2) days prior to the achertuled automation:
- The OSKD assumes no responsibility whateover to companish or indowelly biddies for any expenses incurred in the proparation of
- The OSNO reserves the right to reject any or all bids, we've any formulty and award the Contract to the bidder whose proposal is the exact advantageous to the government as evaluated by the OND-Proper Bids and Awards Commisse (OND-Proper BAC).
- VIII. The invision is also posted in the DBM Procurement Service website at even-procurementservice.org, and the DMD website at are child gov plum accordance with the EPFA of R.A. 9184, Purther, It shall also be posted at conspicuous places in the premises of the Department of Nanoral Defense (DND).

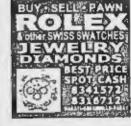
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